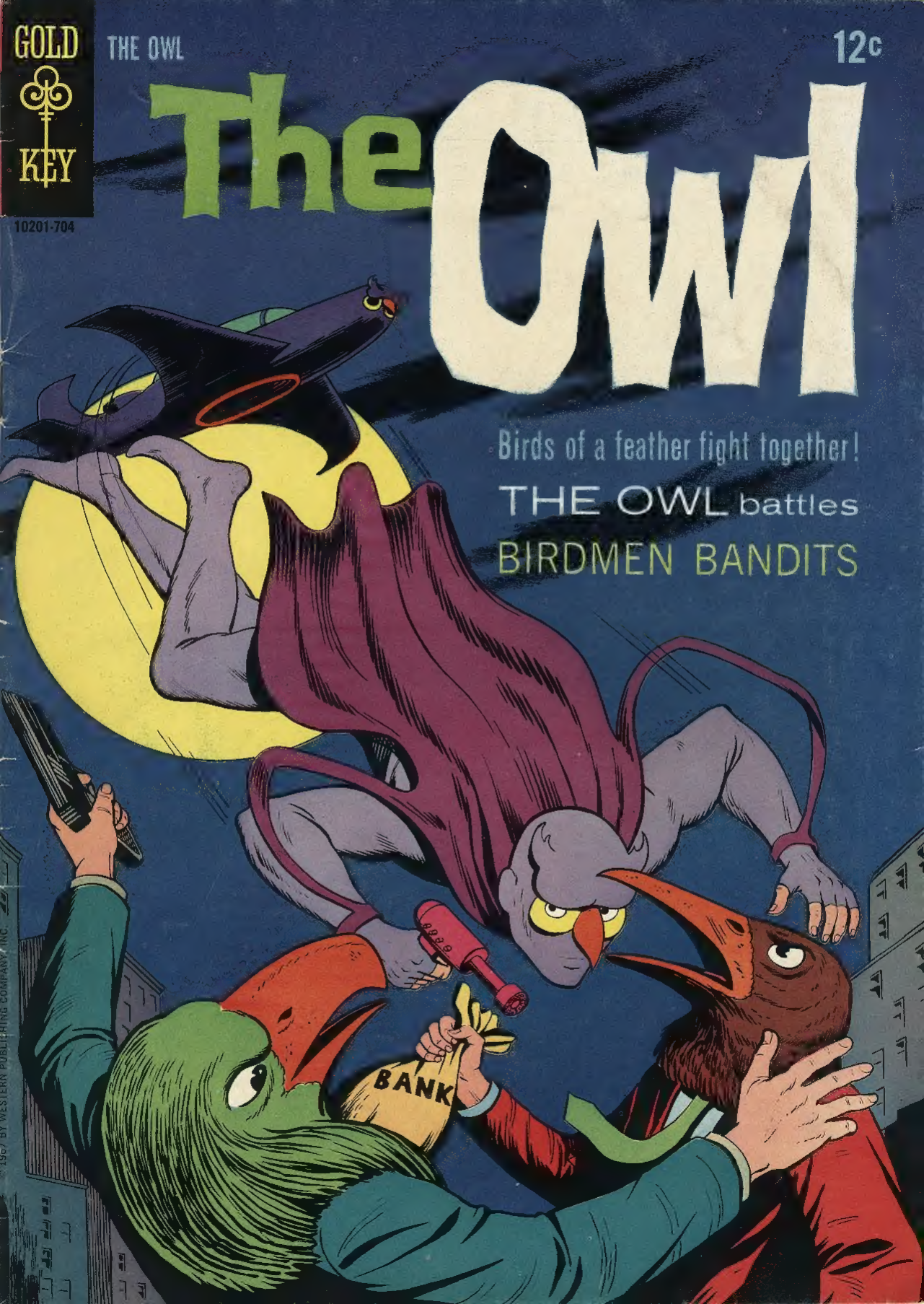
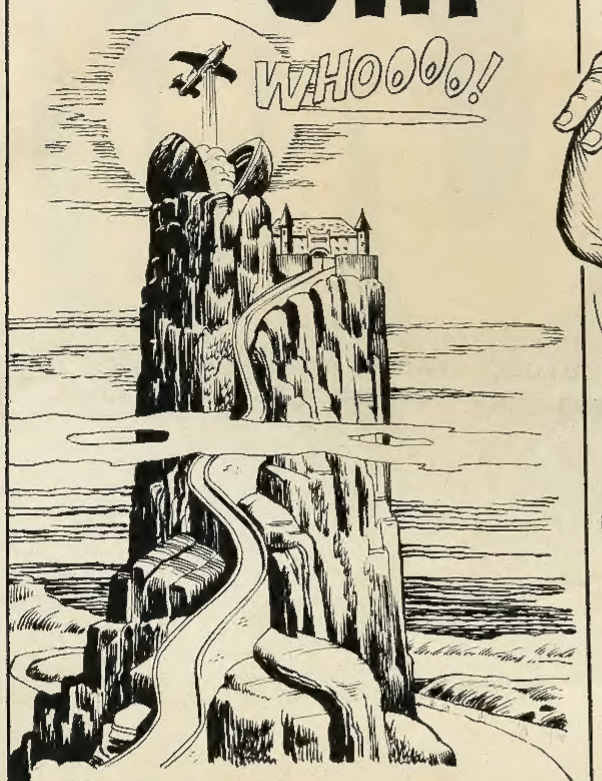

GOLD KEY
THE OWL
12c
The Owl
10201-704
Birds of a feather fight together!
THE OWL battles
BIRDMEN BANDITS
BANK
1967 BY WESTERN PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC.

The Owl



THE OWL ROOST — MOUNTAIN STRONGHOLD THAT OPENS ONLY TO THE HAUNTING HOOT OF THE OWL.

NO ONE CAN RESIST THE GLOWING GAZE OF THE OWL'S HYPNOTIC EYES. UNDER THEIR ORBICULAR SPELL — WILL POWER VANISHES.

OWL GIRL — THE OWL'S ALLY IN THE FIGHT ON CRIME.

THE OWLMOBILE — DUCTED FAN, ALL-PURPOSE VEHICLE THAT CAN HOVER SILENTLY...

IN MIDAIR OR GLIDE SMOOTHLY OVER ROADS AND WATER!

THE OWL

THE ATTACK OF THE DIABOLICAL BIRDMEN

PART I THE VULTURE THAT WALKED LIKE A MAN

ALL RIGHT YOU CAN START CHEERING, PALS! YOU ADMIRERS OF THE *GOLDEN AGE OF COMICS* WHO HAVE BEEN DEMANDING THAT A CERTAIN COSTUMED HERO OF THAT GLORIOUS ERA ZOOM INTO ACTION ONCE MORE, HAVE TRIUMPHED! HE'S BACK AGAIN, AND YOU'VE GOT HIM... *THE OWL,* NOCTURNAL NEMESIS OF EVILDOERS, WHOSE FEATS OF FABULOUS DERRING-DO WHILE HUNTING DOWN LAWBREAKERS HAVE MADE HIM THE TERROR OF THE UNDERWORLD! THRILL TO HIS DAZZLING *NEW* EXPLOITS IN THIS *COLLECTOR'S ITEM* FIRST ISH, WHEN THE *PRINCE OF AVENGERS,* AIDED BY THE DARING *OWL GIRL,* HURTLES INTO RAZZLE-DAZZLE CONFLICT WITH ONE OF THE WILDEST, KOOKIEST CONGLOMERATION OF BIZARRE VILLAINS YOU LUCKY READERS WILL EVER ENCOUNTER IN THE PAGES OF COMICS LITERATURE!

GREAT FIGHTING, *OWL GIRL!* BETWEEN YOUR JUDO AND MY KNUCKLES, THESE BIRD-BRAIN BANDITS WILL REGRET THE DAY THEY TURNED TO CRIME!

BEHIND YOU, OWL...!!!

Siegel & Gill

10201-704
THE OWL #1 - 671

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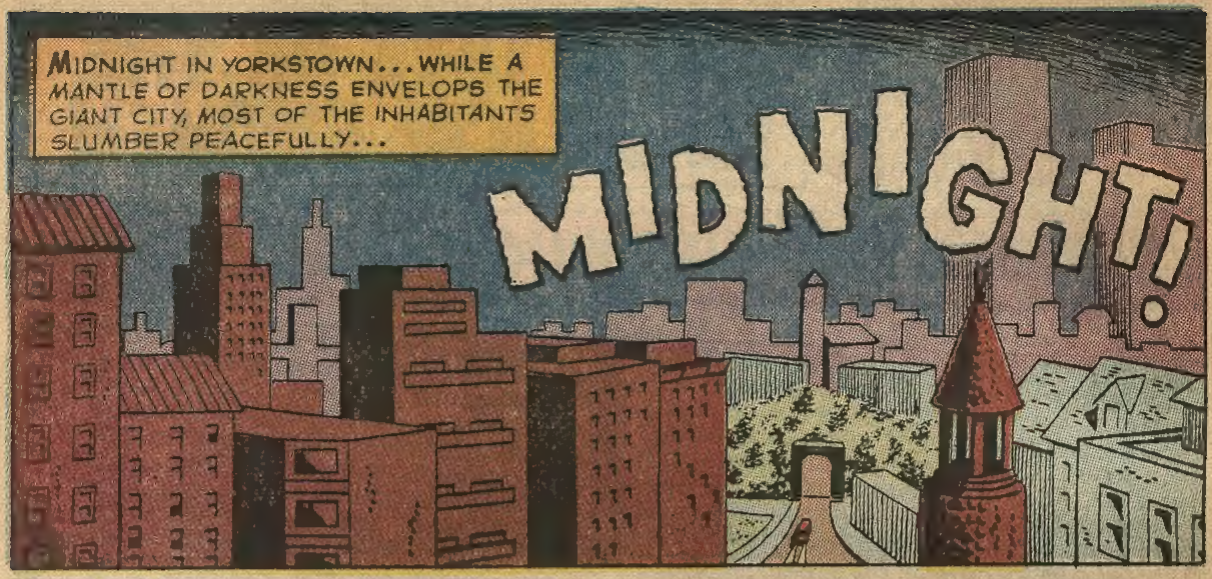
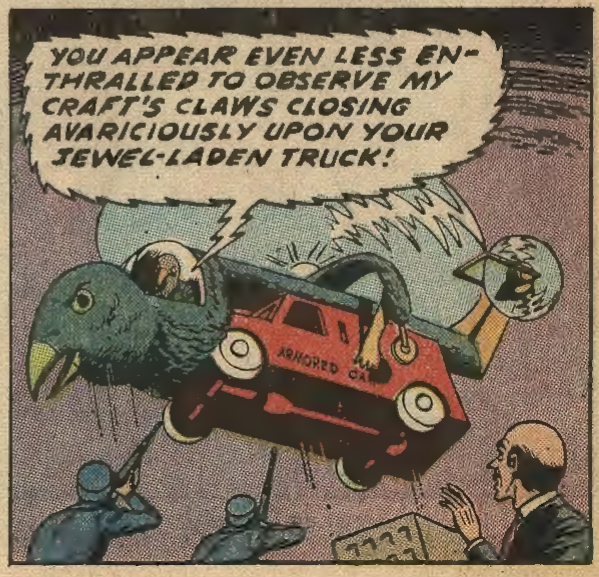

MIDNIGHT IN YORKSTOWN... WHILE A MANTLE OF DARKNESS ENVELOPS THE GIANT CITY, MOST OF THE INHABITANTS SLUMBER PEACEFULLY...
MIDNIGHT!

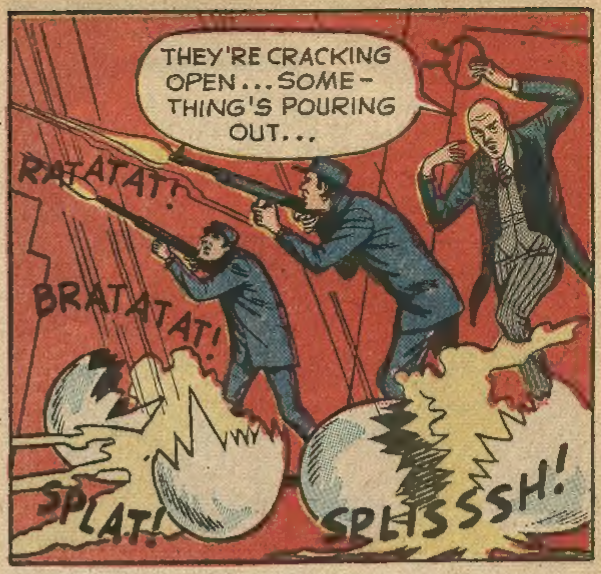
BUT AS THEY SLEEP, THERE ARE OTHERS WHO TOIL...
IT WAS CLEVER TO DELIVER THE GREATEST JEWELRY SHIPMENT IN HISTORY AT THIS UNEXPECTED HOUR!
ANY CROOKS WHO MAY HAVE PLANNED TO STEAL IT WILL BE CAUGHT NAPPING... HA, HA!
SPIFENEY'S JEWELERS
ARMORED CAR CORP.

UNEXPECTEDLY...
GOOD EVENING, FRIENDS!
AWP! TH-THAT WEIRD-LOOKING HELICOPTER!

I AM...THE VULTURE! YOU WIDE-EYED, GAPING-MOUTHED BOOBS DO NOT SEEM PLEASED TO SEE ME OR MY VULTURE-PLANE!

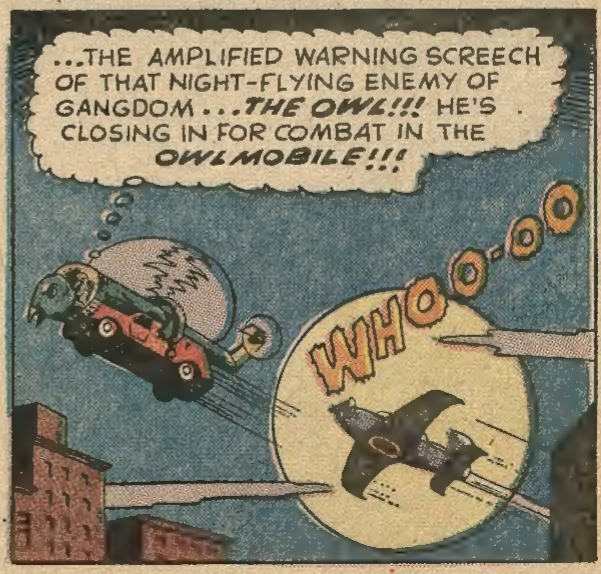

YOU APPEAR EVEN LESS ENTHRALLED TO OBSERVE MY CRAFT'S CLAWS CLOSING AVARICIOUSLY UPON YOUR JEWEL-LADEN TRUCK!
ARMORED CAR

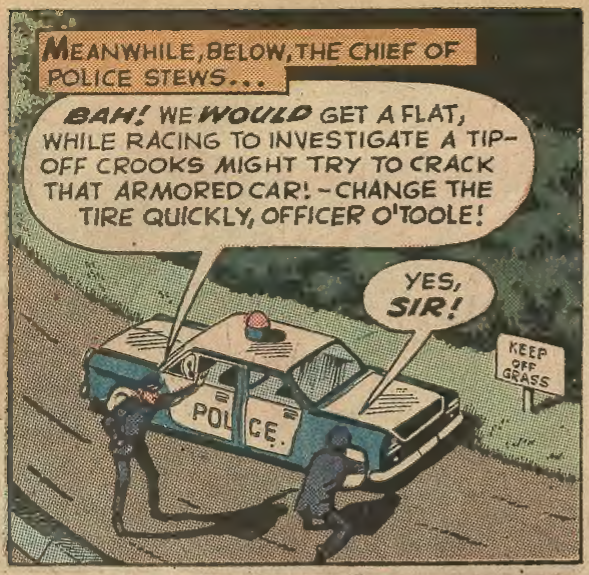
RATATAT!
BLAST THAT CROOK DOWN!
HUH? THE NUTTY VULTURE-PLANE IS LAYING SOME EGGS!


THEY'RE CRACKING OPEN... SOMETHING'S POURING OUT...
RATATAT!
BRATATAT!
SPLAT!
SPLISSSH!

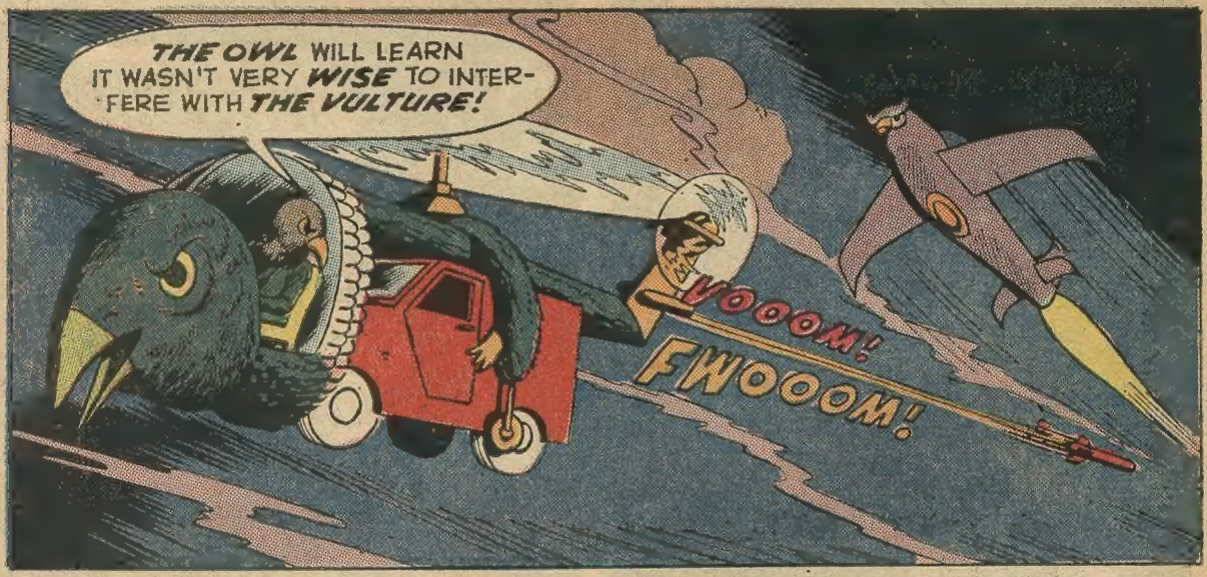
TEAR GAS, GENTS! CAN THOSE TEARS STREAMING DOWN YOUR FACES MEAN YOU'RE SAD TO SEE ME GO? HOW TOUCHING...HA, HA!

BUT AS THE SCAVENGER OF CRIMINALITY BLAZES OFF WITH HIS CHOICE PICKINGS...
WHOO-OO!
GREAT TAIL-FEATHERS! THAT ACCURSED HOOT-CALL! IT CAN ONLY BE...


...THE AMPLIFIED WARNING SCREECH OF THAT NIGHT-FLYING ENEMY OF GANGDOM... THE OWL!!! HE'S CLOSING IN FOR COMBAT IN THE OWLMOBILE!!!
WHOO-OO


MEANWHILE, BELOW, THE CHIEF OF POLICE STEWS...
BAH! WE WOULD GET A FLAT, WHILE RACING TO INVESTIGATE A TIP-OFF CROOKS MIGHT TRY TO CRACK THAT ARMORED CAR! - CHANGE THE TIRE QUICKLY, OFFICER O'TOOLE!
YES, SIR!
POLICE
KEEP OFF GRASS

LOOKEE! THE OWL IS AFTER SOMEBODY WHO STOLE THE TRUCK! GEE! ISN'T THAT NICE?
NOBODY ASKED THE OWL TO BUTT IN! WE --NOT HIM--ARE SUPPOSED TO CATCH CROOKS, YOU BLITHERING SIMP!

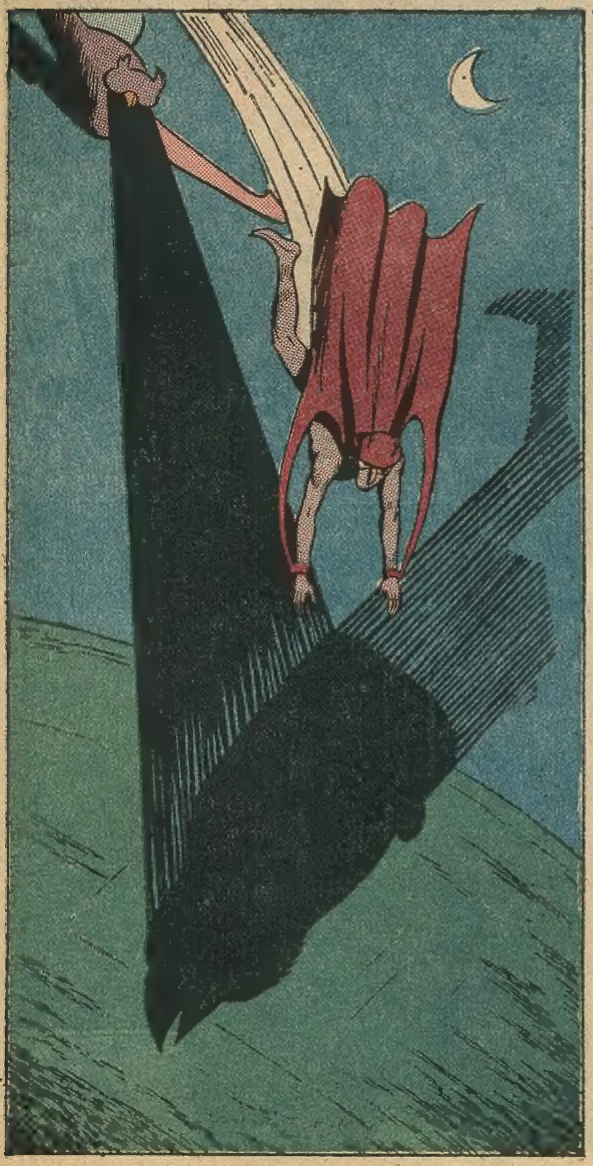

THE OWL WILL LEARN IT WASN'T VERY WISE TO INTERFERE WITH THE VULTURE!
WOOOM!
FWOOOM!

EXCELLENT STUNT-FLYING, OWL! BUT THAT VILLAINOUS CREEP WE SPOTTED WHILE ON PATROL IS A PRETTY GOOD MARKS MAN!
IF YOU'RE WORRIED THAT HE'LL ZERO IN ON US, OWL GIRL, FORGET IT...!

THE "BL" BUTTON?
NONE OTHER, LAURA!
BLACK LIGHT PUSH BUTTON

AND AS THE UNLEASHED UNIQUE RAY ABSORBS LIGHT, CAUSING A SCREEN OF INSTANT TOTAL DARKNESS, WHICH IS IMMUNE TO MOONLIGHT...
BLAST THE OWL AND HIS TRICKS! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO SHOOT DOWN A TARGET YOU CAN'T SEE!

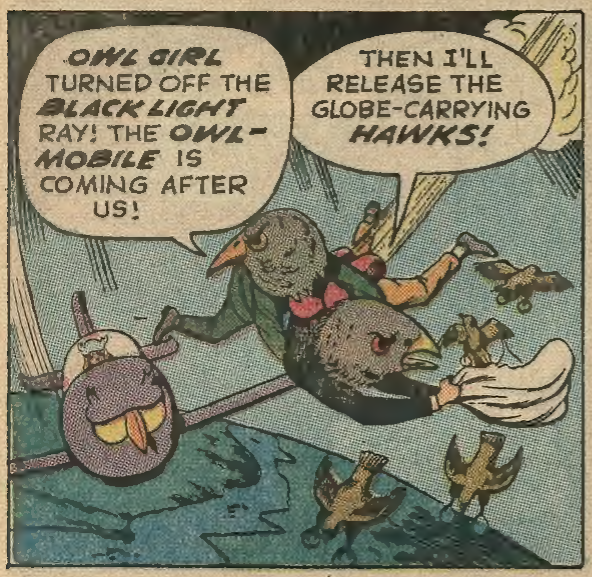
TAKE OVER THE CONTROLS, WHILE I GO PAY AN UNNEIGHBORLY VISIT! UNLIKE OTHERS, WE CAN SEE IN THE DARK THANKS TO OUR UNFRA-RED GOGGLES!



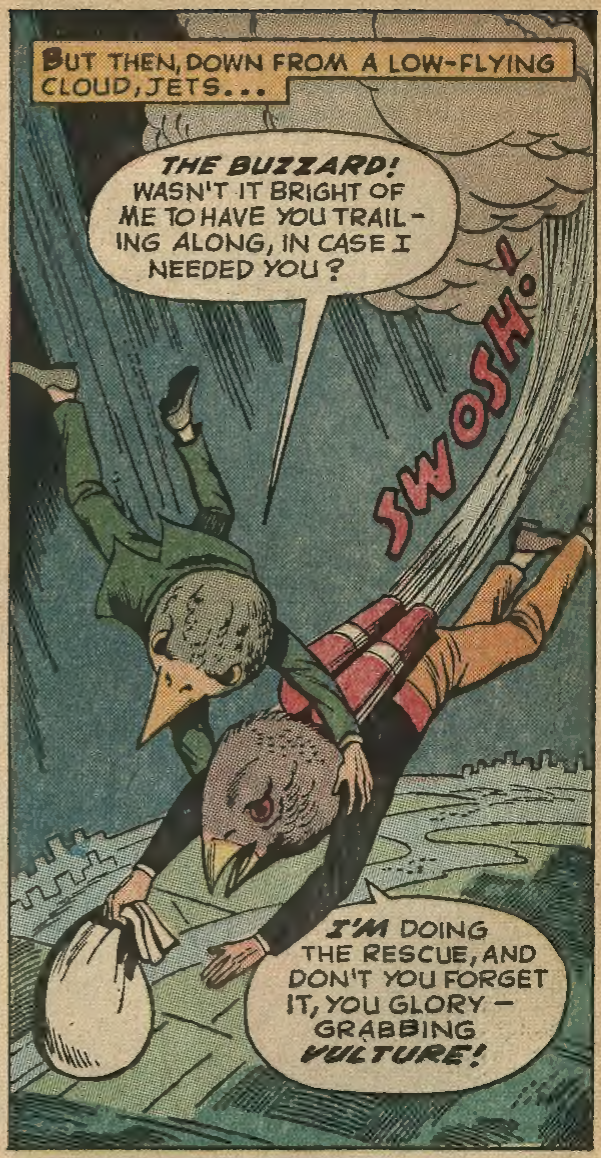
OUT, LOUT!!
TH-THAT MUST BE THE VOICE OF THE OWL!

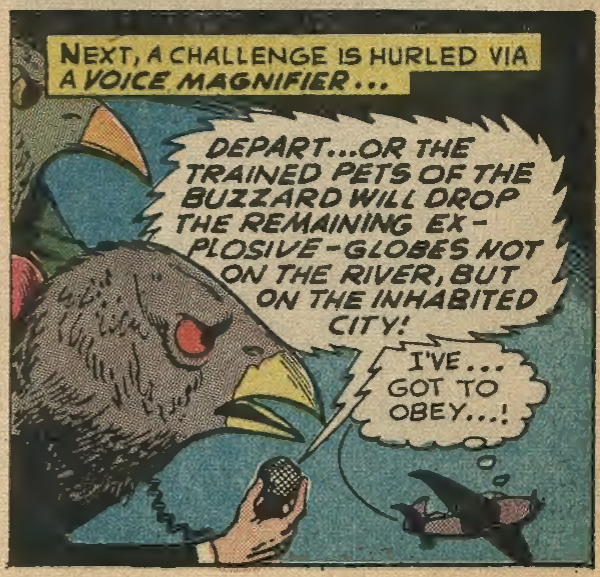
I'M AT A DISADVANTAGE, BECAUSE YOU CAN SEE IN THIS BLACKNESS AND I CAN'T! ...OWW!
WHY DON'T YOU COMPLAIN TO A COP?

NOBODY CAPTURES THE VULTURE!
A DEATH-LEAP! I'D BETTER TAKE OVER THIS CRAFT'S CONTROLS BEFORE I SHARE HIS FATE!

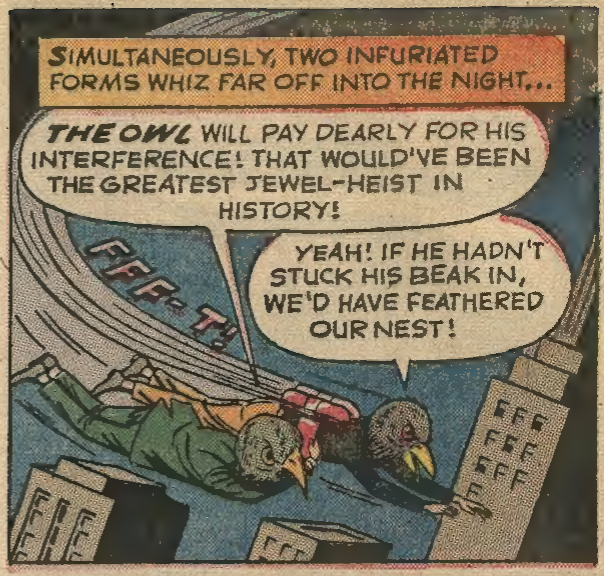

OWL GIRL TURNED OFF THE BLACK LIGHT RAY! THE OWL-MOBILE IS COMING AFTER US!
THEN I'LL RELEASE THE GLOBE-CARRYING HAWKS!

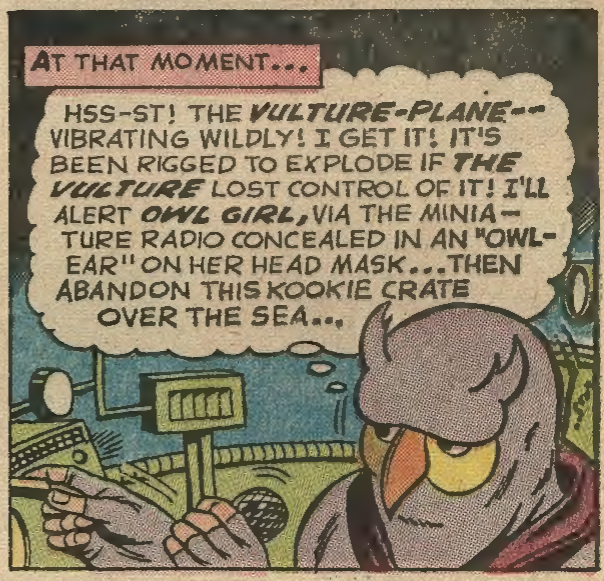
BWOOM!
BA MM!

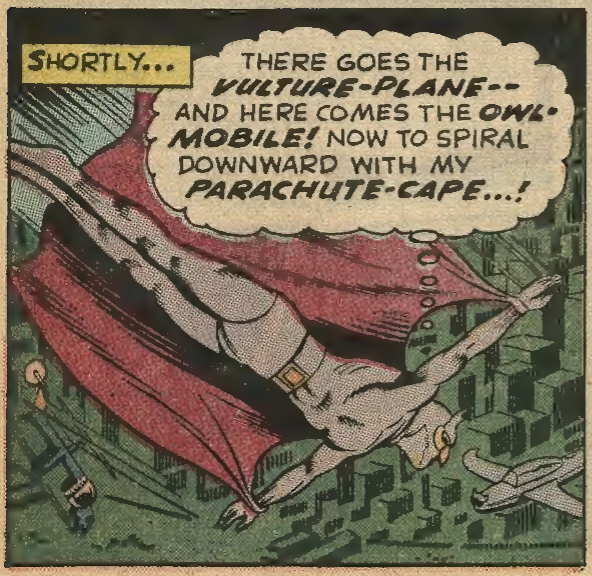

BUT THEN, DOWN FROM A LOW-FLYING CLOUD, JETS...
THE BUZZARD! WASN'T IT BRIGHT OF ME TO HAVE YOU TRAILING ALONG, IN CASE I NEEDED YOU?
SWOSH!
I'M DOING THE RESCUE, AND DON'T YOU FORGET IT, YOU GLORY-GRABBING VULTURE!

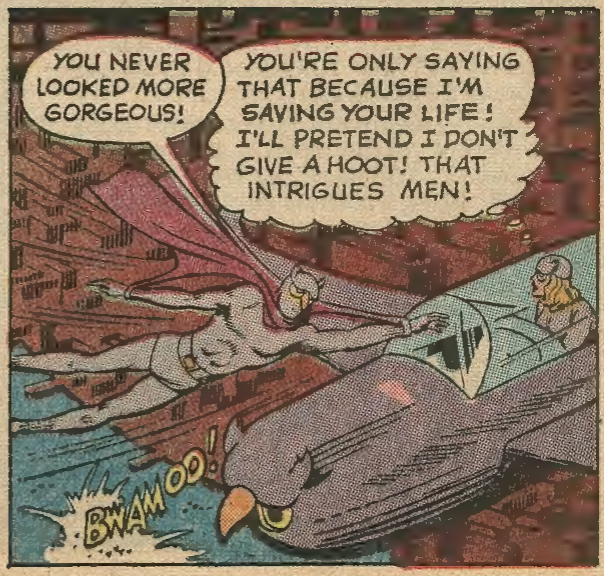

NEXT, A CHALLENGE IS HURLED VIA A VOICE MAGNIFIER...
DEPART...OR THE TRAINED PETS OF THE BUZZARD WILL DROP THE REMAINING EXPLOSIVE-GLOBES NOT ON THE RIVER, BUT ON THE INHABITED CITY!
I'VE... GOT TO OBEY...!

MEANWHILE...
HI, CHIEF! I'M RETURNING THE RECOVERED ARMORED CAR! AND ITS JEWELS TO YOU, WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE OWL!
THANK YOU, MR. OWL!
FINISH CHANGING THAT DAD-BLASTED TIRE!

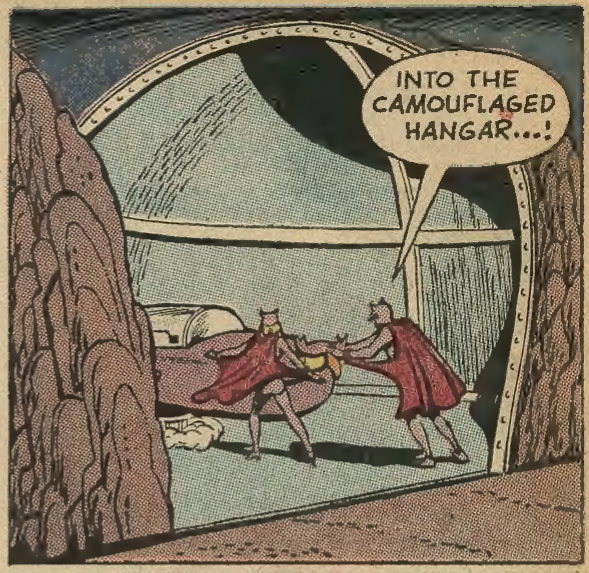

SIMULTANEOUSLY, TWO INFURIATED FORMS WHIZ FAR OFF INTO THE NIGHT...
THE OWL WILL PAY DEARLY FOR HIS INTERFERENCE! THAT WOULD'VE BEEN THE GREATEST JEWEL-HEIST IN HISTORY!
FFF-T!
YEAH! IF HE HADN'T STUCK HIS BEAK IN, WE'D HAVE FEATHERED OUR NEST!

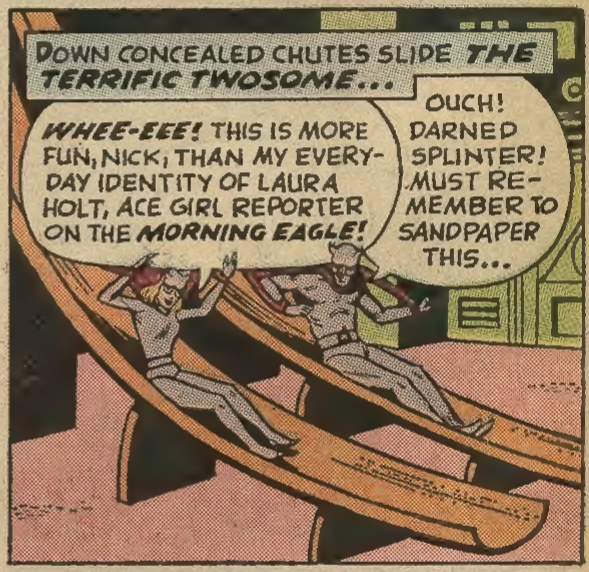

AT THAT MOMENT...
HSS-ST! THE VULTURE-PLANE-- VIBRATING WILDLY! I GET IT! IT'S BEEN RIGGED TO EXPLODE IF THE VULTURE LOST CONTROL OF IT! I'LL ALERT OWL GIRL, VIA THE MINIATURE RADIO CONCEALED IN AN "OWL-EAR" ON HER HEAD MASK...THEN ABANDON THIS KOOKIE CRATE OVER THE SEA...

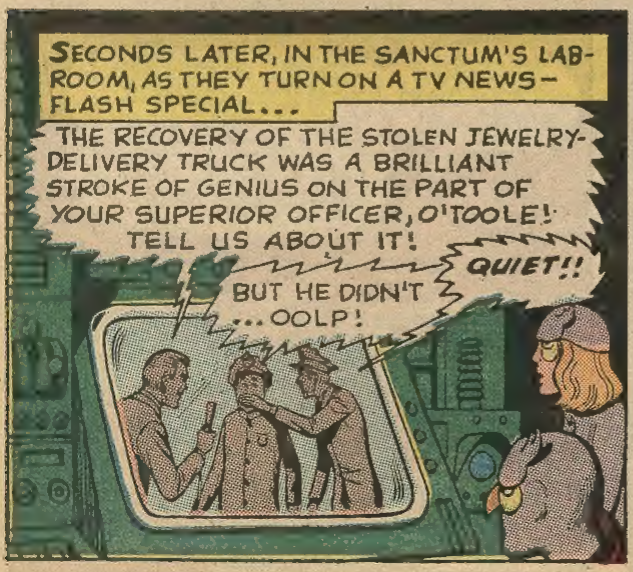

SHORTLY...
THERE GOES THE VULTURE-PLANE-- AND HERE COMES THE OWL-MOBILE! NOW TO SPIRAL DOWNWARD WITH MY PARACHUTE-CAPE...!

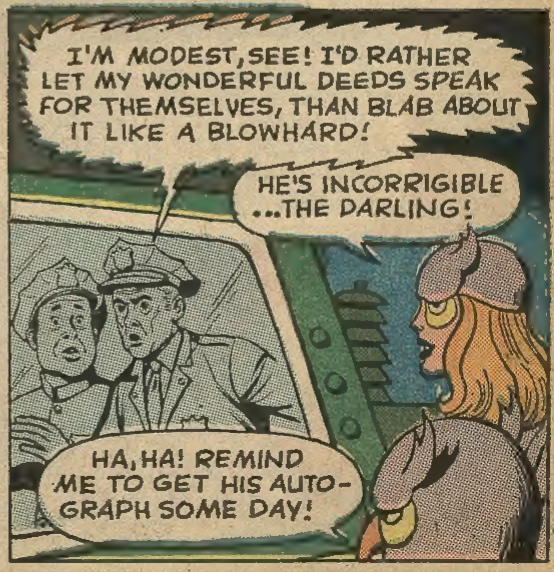

YOU NEVER LOOKED MORE GORGEOUS!
YOU'RE ONLY SAYING THAT BECAUSE I'M SAVING YOUR LIFE! I'LL PRETEND I DON'T GIVE A HOOT! THAT INTRIGUES MEN!
BWAMOO!

A LITTLE LATER, THE FAMED OWL-MOBILE DESCENDS TOWARD THE ROOF OF THE OWL RETREAT, WHICH PERCHES HIGH UPON A FORBIDDING CRAG...
WHOOOO!


INTO THE CAMOUFLAGED HANGAR...!


DOWN CONCEALED CHUTES SLIDE THE TERRIFIC TWOSOME...
WHEE-EEE! THIS IS MORE FUN, NICK, THAN MY EVERY-DAY IDENTITY OF LAURA HOLT, ACE GIRL REPORTER ON THE MORNING EAGLE!
OUCH! DARNED SPLINTER! MUST REMEMBER TO SANDPAPER THIS...

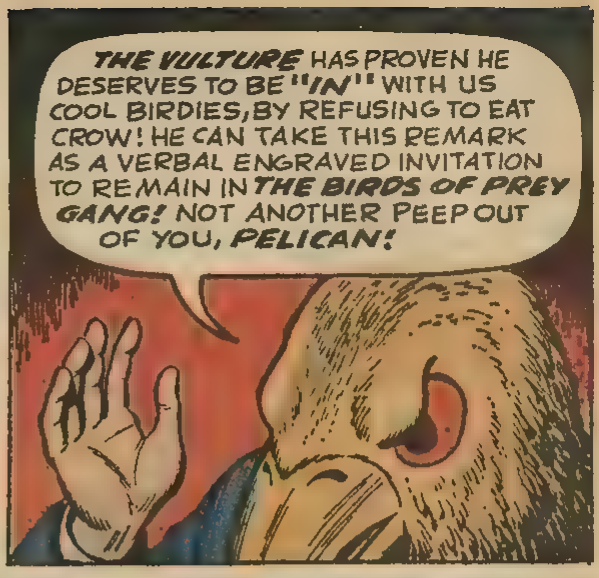

SECONDS LATER, IN THE SANCTUM'S LAB-ROOM, AS THEY TURN ON A TV NEWS-FLASH SPECIAL...
THE RECOVERY OF THE STOLEN JEWELRY-DELIVERY TRUCK WAS A BRILLIANT STROKE OF GENIUS ON THE PART OF YOUR SUPERIOR OFFICER, O'TOOLE! TELL US ABOUT IT!
QUIET!!
BUT HE DIDN'T ...OOLP!

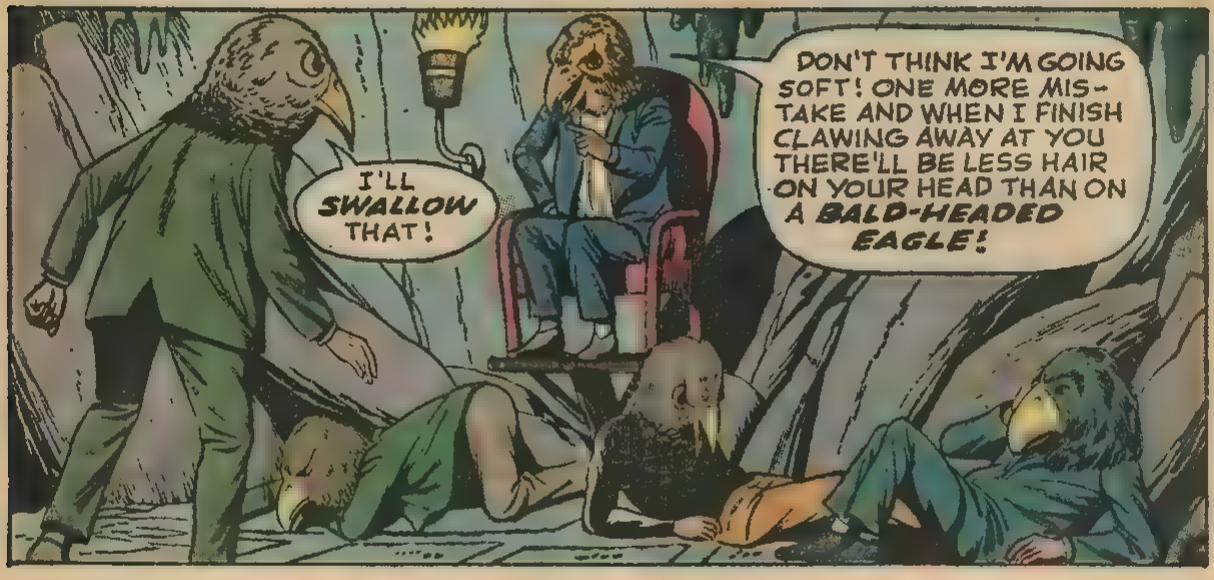

I'M MODEST, SEE! I'D RATHER LET MY WONDERFUL DEEDS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES, THAN BLAB ABOUT IT LIKE A BLOWHARD!
HE'S INCORRIGIBLE ...THE DARLING!
HA, HA! REMIND ME TO GET HIS AUTO-GRAPH SOME DAY!

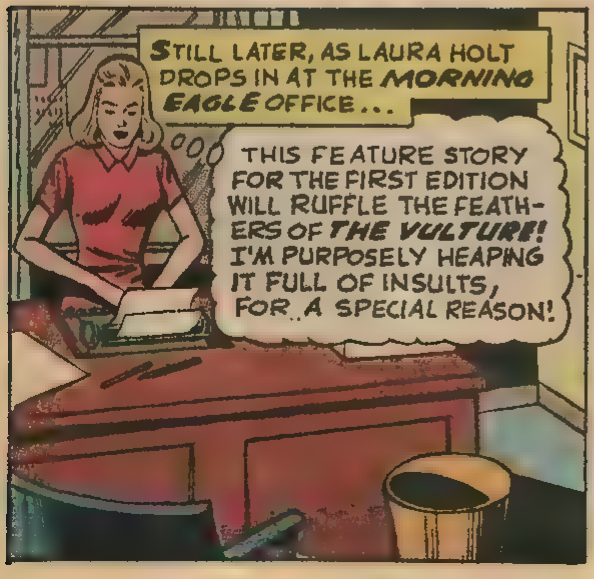
IT'S REALLY NO LAUGHING MATTER! THE VULTURE AND THAT BUZZARD YOU TOLD ME ABOUT, ARE TWO OF THE MOST DANGEROUS CRIMINALS WE'VE EVER MET! THEY'RE SURE TO STRIKE AGAIN!
THANK GOODNESS THERE ARE ONLY TWO LIKE THEM!
WITHIN A DISTANT CAVERN...
FUMBLER! PUT YOUR VULTURE HEAD-MASK BACK ON! I HATE THE SIGHT OF YOUR INEPT FACE! IT'S FOR THE BIRDS!
I'D HAVE TRIUMPHED MAGNIFICENTLY IF THE OWL HADN'T WINGED INTO ACTION!
YOU EXPECT ME TO SWALLOW THAT BIRDSEED?
IF...(CHOKE)...YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, ASK THE BUZZARD! HE WAS THERE! THE RAVEN, THE FALCON, THE CONDOR AND THE PELICAN HAVE GOT FAITH IN ME, BOSS!
PLEASE SAY YOU'LL FORGIVE ME, EAGLE!
BIRDBRAIN! WHEN WE EX-JAILBIRDS FLOCKED TOGETHER INTO THE BIRDS OF PREY GANG, WE AGREED FAILURE WOULD BE PUNISHED SEVERELY! ONLY IF YOU SURVIVE THE ATTACK OF THE OTHERS, CAN YOU STAY IN THE MOB!
CONDOR! FALCON! ATTACK HIM!
AFTER WE DON THESE STEEL-TALONED GLOVES!
THE BEADY EYES OF THE BUZZARD WILL WATCH YOUR DESTRUCTION, VULTURE...HAW!

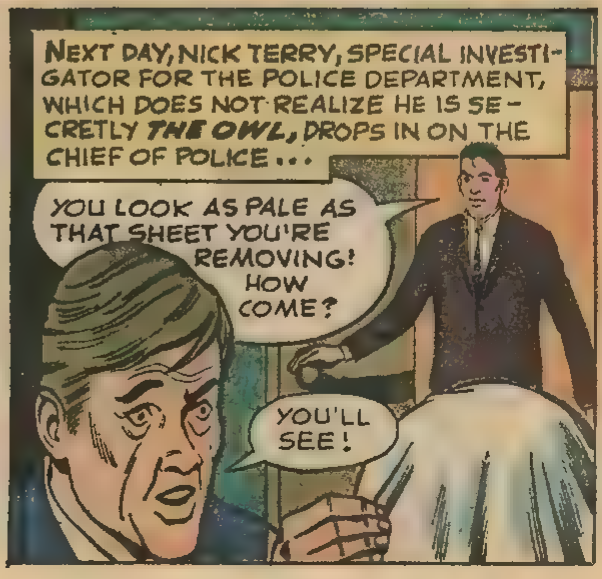
KRA-A!
KAWRR!
SO YOU BIRDS OF A FEATHER ARE FLOCKING TOGETHER AGAINST ME, EH?
WAP!
THAP!
THE VULTURE IS NEVER DOWN AND OUT, YOU WICKED WARBLERS!
THIS WILL BE THE END OF YOU, VULTURE!
"QUOTH THE RAVEN, 'NEVERMORE', "EH?
THE VULTURE HAS CULTURE? A REG'LAR EDGAR ALLEN SHMOE!
BUZZ OFF, BUZZARD!
EE-YAWWPP!

KRAA! KRAA!
PUT THAT BOULDER DOWN, PELICAN! OR YOU'LL BE IN THE DOGHOUSE...ER ...BIRDHOUSE WITH YOUR LEADER THE EAGLE!


THE VULTURE HAS PROVEN HE DESERVES TO BE "IN" WITH US COOL BIRDIES, BY REFUSING TO EAT CROW! HE CAN TAKE THIS REMARK AS A VERBAL ENGRAVED INVITATION TO REMAIN IN THE BIRDS OF PREY GANG! NOT ANOTHER PEEP OUT OF YOU, PELICAN!


I'LL SWALLOW THAT!
DON'T THINK I'M GOING SOFT! ONE MORE MISTAKE AND WHEN I FINISH CLAWING AWAY AT YOU THERE'LL BE LESS HAIR ON YOUR HEAD THAN ON A BALD-HEADED EAGLE!


STILL LATER, AS LAURA HOLT DROPS IN AT THE MORNING EAGLE OFFICE...
THIS FEATURE STORY FOR THE FIRST EDITION WILL RUFFLE THE FEATHERS OF THE VULTURE! I'M PURPOSELY HEAPING IT FULL OF INSULTS, FOR A SPECIAL REASON!

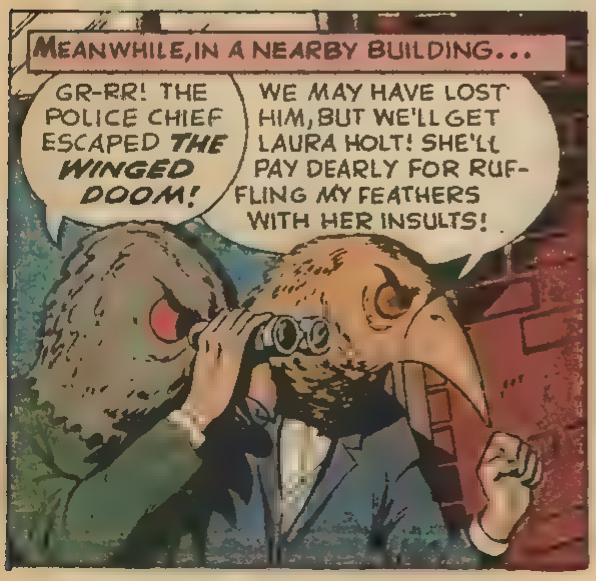

NEXT DAY, NICK TERRY, SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, WHICH DOES NOT REALIZE HE IS SECRETLY THE OWL, DROPS IN ON THE CHIEF OF POLICE...
YOU LOOK AS PALE AS THAT SHEET YOU'RE REMOVING! HOW COME?
YOU'LL SEE!

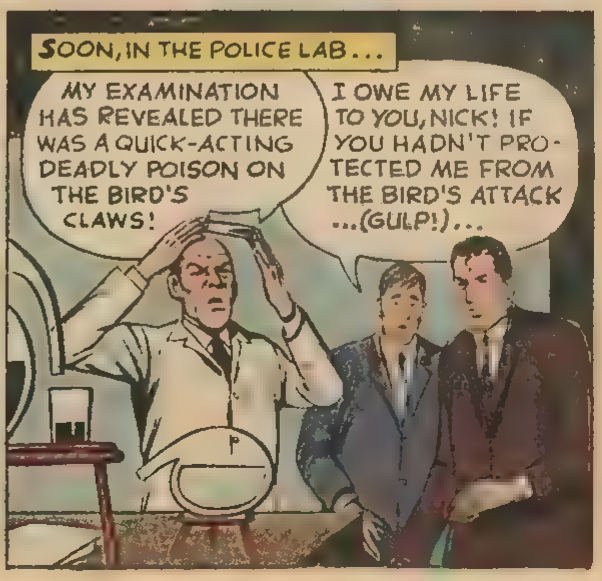
SQUAWWRK!...BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN CHUMMY WITH THE OWL, CHIEF... SQUORRK...YOU ARE MARKED FOR DEATH BY THE BIRDS OF PREY GANG!...SQUORRKK!
HOW'D YOU GET THIS BIRD OF ILL-OMEN??
"IT FLEW IN THROUGH MY OFFICE WINDOW EARLIER..."
SQUORRK! YOU ARE DOOMED, CHIEF!
GET A BIRDCAGE, QUICK! WE GOTTA HANG ONTO THIS IMPORTANT PIECE OF EVIDENCE!
I DUNNO IF SOME DOPEY CRACKPOT PRANKSTER IS PULLIN' MY LEG OR...
THAT BLACKBIRD...!
DUCK! DODGE! HIDE! DON'T LET THAT BLACKBIRD RIP ITS TALONS INTO YOU...!
HUH? WHAT BLACK-BIRD? HAVE YOU POPPED YOUR CORK, TOO, NICK?
WHAACCK!
SORRY, CHIEF!
WAS

NOW IT'S AFTER ME! -THIS WASTE-BASKET...!
WAST

WHAT ARE YOU MAKIN' SUCH A BIG DEAL OUT OF THIS FOR, NICK? YOU'VE BEEN WATCHIN' TOO MANY TV MYSTERIES!
GOT YOU!
STE

BEWARE OF THE BLACKBIRD IN THIS BASKET! DON'T LET IT TOUCH YOU! HAVE THE SCIENCE-LAB EXPERTS EXAMINE IT CAREFULLY! I SUSPECT IT CAME ON A MURDER MISSION!
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING, PAL!


MEANWHILE, IN A NEARBY BUILDING...
GR-RR! THE POLICE CHIEF ESCAPED THE WINGED DOOM!
WE MAY HAVE LOST HIM, BUT WE'LL GET LAURA HOLT! SHE'LL PAY DEARLY FOR RUFFLING MY FEATHERS WITH HER INSULTS!


SOON, IN THE POLICE LAB...
MY EXAMINATION HAS REVEALED THERE WAS A QUICK-ACTING DEADLY POISON ON THE BIRD'S CLAWS!
I OWE MY LIFE TO YOU, NICK! IF YOU HADN'T PROTECTED ME FROM THE BIRD'S ATTACK ...(GULP!)...

THE MEMBERS OF THE BIRDS OF PREY GANG ARE DANGEROUS MANIACS! UNTIL THEY'RE LOCKED UP, NOBODY WILL BE SAFE!
I AGREE! - (ULP!) THIS ARTICLE BY LAURA ...! (ALOUD) CARRY ON, CHIEF!
PRESENTLY, AT A PAY-TELEPHONE...
YOU SAY MY FIANCEE LAURA IS OUT ON AN ASSIGNMENT, BUT WILL RETURN TO THE NEWSPAPER SOON? THANKS!
FOOLHARDY GAL! SHE WROTE THOSE INSULTS SO THE VULTURE WOULD STRIKE BACK AT HER! LAURA IS CONFIDENT SHE CAN SUBDUE HIM, BUT SHE DOESN'T REALIZE THE VULTURE IS PART OF A BIG GANG! SHE ISN'T ON GUARD AGAINST ALL THE DEVILISH TRICKERY THOSE BIRDS MAY SPRING...!
HOW VERY TRUE, NICK! FOR AT THIS VERY INSTANT, WITHIN A PARKED TRUCK...
YA-HA-HA! THE HOLT DAME JUST RETURNED TO HER OFFICE! OUR AMAZING CONTROL OVER OUR TRAINED LITTLE FEATHERED FRIENDS CAUSES THEM TO OBEY OUR MENTAL ORDERS! YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO, DON'T YOU? NOW GO! PUT ON THAT FAKE ACT YOU'VE BEEN TRAINED FOR!
COO!
TRUCKING
MOMENTS AFTER, THE INNOCENT-APPEARING SONGBIRD ALIGHTS ON THE LEDGE BENEATH LAURA'S OFFICE WINDOW...
OH, HOW SWEETLY THAT SONGBIRD SINGS! IT'S LIMPING! THE POOR THING IS INJURED! I'LL TAKE IT TO AN ANIMAL DOCTOR FOR TREATMENT!
SHE'LL REGRET HER IMPULSIVENESS! NOW TURN TO THE RIP-ROARING SMASH CONCLUSION OF THIS GREAT OWL TALE, IN THIS UNFORGETTABLY MONUMENTAL ISSUE! - WOW!!

MINI-COMICS

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MONSTER MUSEUM

THE VACUUM BEAST

His mighty suction is strong enough to pull in just about anything. He grows as he eats; when he's small, he feeds on animals, ash cans and automobiles. At his largest, whole skyscrapers have been known to disappear into his enormous snout!

THE VISE-JAWED MONSTER

His jaws screw together like a powerful clamp. They can crush the hardest steel into dust!

THE SEA DEVIL

It is said that the Sea Devil's poisonous sting can kill the biggest whale. Nothing caught in its claws has ever been known to survive.

THE HYPNO-BUG

One of the largest insects known. Its glowing eyes instantly petrify its victims. Then the hungry mouth finishes them off!

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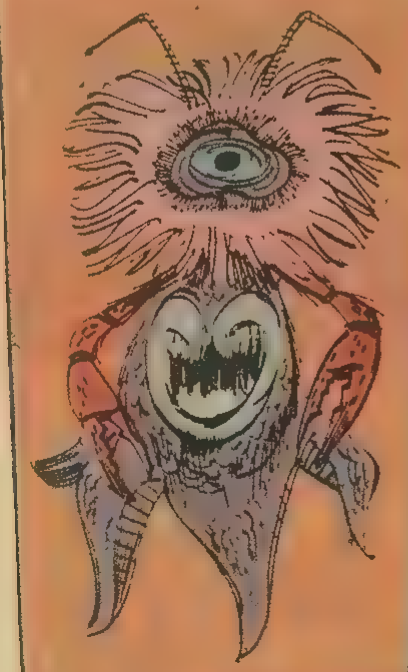

Jest for Fun

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Mother: Junior, what are you doing?
Junior: Feeding the monkeys half of my peanuts!
Mother: That is nice. You should share things with others, even with monkeys.
Junior: Yes, and I'm giving them the shells.
J. D. Robinson—Orlando, Fla.

Susie: What runs after it has been caught?
Trudie: A woman's stocking!
Joy Monroe—Dimondale, Mich.

Billy: What did the necktie say to the hat?
Greg: You go on ahead, I'll hang around!
Susan Choc—Duluth, Minn.

Mary: Why is an old car like a baby?
Tim: Because it never goes anywhere without a rattle.
Elaine Thomason—Balboa, Canal Zone

Jimmy: I saw a man making a horse today!
Mother: Are you sure about that?
Jimmy: Well, he was nailing a foot on one!
Terry Darity—Macon, Ga.

Riddle: What possesses two banks yet it does not own a cent?
Answer: A river.
Dave Gorman—Royal Oaks, Mich.

Riddle: Where do they send sick boats?
Answer: To the dock!
Bonnie Hassell—Burghill, Ohio

Tommy: Why did that cowboy's horse come to such a sudden stop?
Barry: Because it ran into In'gin trouble!
Robin Beane—Reading, Calif.

Mother: Everything is going up! I wish just one thing would come down!
Danny: Well, here's my report card!
Nancy Quam—Deforest, Wis.

Mary: What people make the best bookkeepers?
Jane: People who do not return the books that they borrow!
Linda Barrows—Westbrook, Maine

Frankie: Teacher, I don't want to scare you, but somebody is threatening you.
Teacher: Who?
Frankie: My father! He says if I don't get better marks somebody is going to get an awful spanking!
Cindy Peoples—Newark, Ohio

Riddle: How many sides are there to a barrel?
Answer: Two. The inside and the outside.
Mark Flanders—Cincinnati, Ohio

Sam: Why do you say your car is like a big goose?
Tony: Because it honks like one.
Jessie Scott—Waianae, Hawaii

Barbara: Which weighs less, a full moon or a half moon?
Jan: A full moon, because it's lighter!
David Babb—Midland, Texas

Linda: My father can't decide whether to get a cow or a tractor.
Kathie: He'd look silly ploughing his new farm with a cow.
Linda: He'd look sillier trying to milk a tractor.
Cathy Wood and Lynn Gard—Atlantic, Iowa

Will: Yippee! The teacher said we would have test today, rain or shine!
Bob: Then why are you so happy?
Will: Because it's snowing!
Julieanne Walsh—Amelia, Va.

James: Why do you say it is hard to get a lot of work to do around your farm?
John: We have a goat that always butts in, that's why!
William Davis—New Orleans, La.

Jordan: What is a pup tent?
Gordan: A portable doghouse!
Joseph Lee—Willets, Calif.

Riddle: When does an Idaho potato change its nationality?
Answer: When it becomes French fries.
Arleen Levy—Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dan: What is the easiest way to make a fire with two sticks?
Stan: Make sure one of them is a match!
Cheryl Willong—Holtville, Calif.

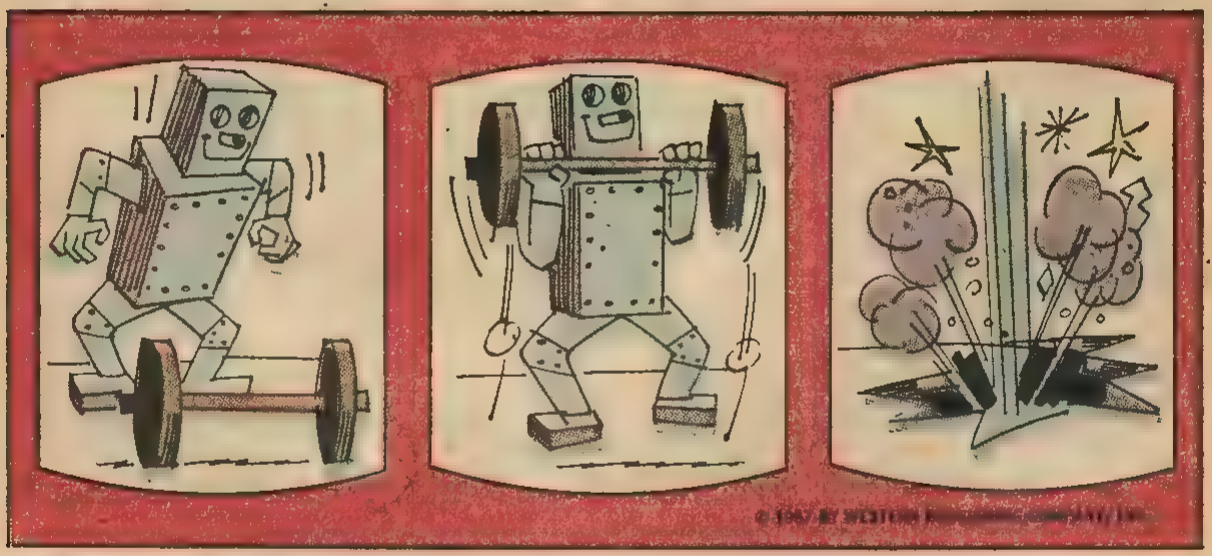
Mick: What is the strongest day in the week?
Dick: Sunday, for the others are weekdays!
Terry Coen—Coffeeville, Kans.

Fern: I am going to the dentist's office.
Don: Oh, visiting a filling station, huh?
Barry Brown—Ames, Iowa

Riddle: What animal carries the heaviest load when it moves?
Answer: A snail. It carries its house on its back!
Goffrey McDermott—Bricktown, N.J.

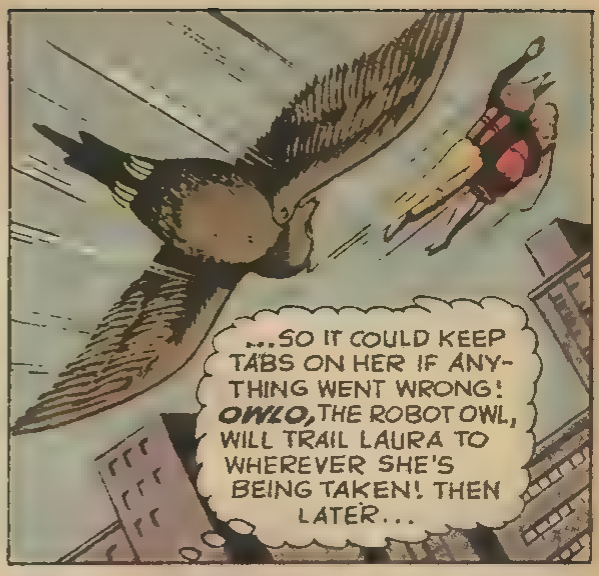
Mother Octopus to Babysitter: Be sure you hold my baby's hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand when you take him out.
Mike Quimby—Centreville, Md.

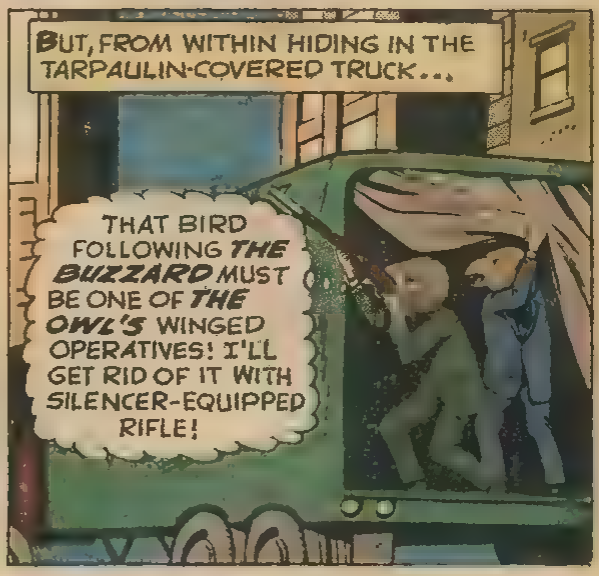
QUICK TAKES



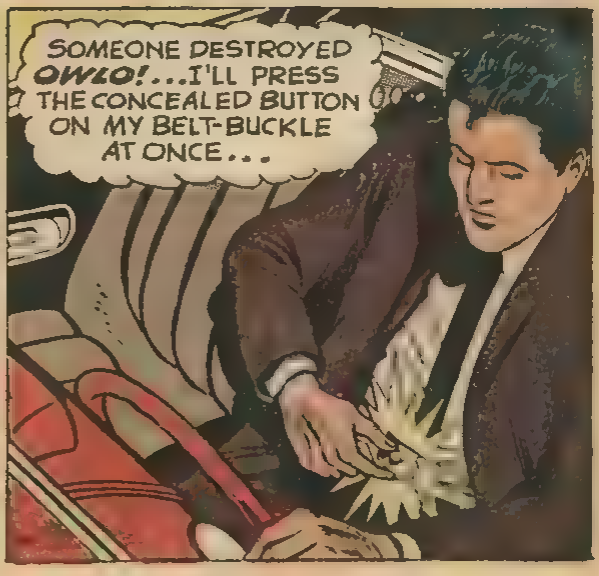
PART II
THE OWL
The TALONS OF THE BIRDMEN BANDITS
NO SOONER DOES LAURA HOLT REACH FOR THE CUNNINGLY TRAINED DECOY, THAN DOWN FROM THE BUILDING'S ROOF TOP JETS THE FEARSOME-MASKED FORM OF THE BUZZARD!
YA-HA-HAAA! OUT WITH YOU!
YEEEE!
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THE CANARY'S LEG! SEE? IT ISN'T LIMPING ANY MORE, NOW THAT ITS ASSIGNED TASK TO LURE YOU WITHIN REACH OF MY CLAWS IS ACCOM-PLISHED!
AT THAT MOMENT, NICK ARRIVES...
THE BIRDMEN GANG HAVE THEIR TALONS ON LAURA! I'M ... TOO LATE!

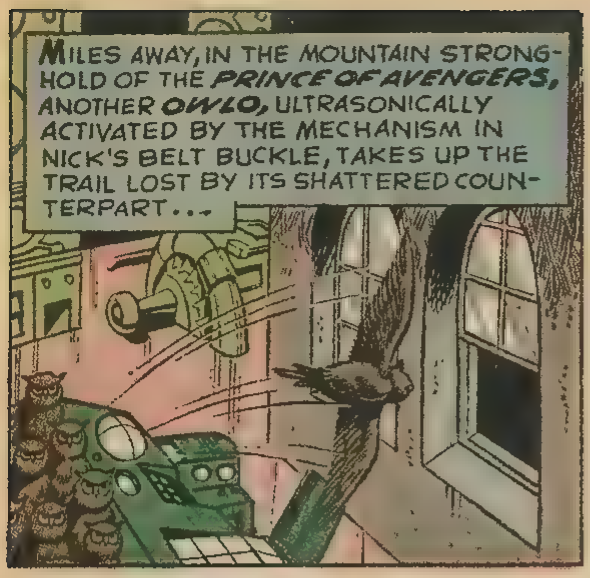
FROM ATOP A NEARBY BUILDING, A SAUCER-EYED BIRD SWOOPS IN PURSUIT OF THE FLEEING BUZZARD...
THANK GOODNESS I HAD THE FORESIGHT TO STATION ONE OF MY WINGED SENTINELS NEAR LAURA...

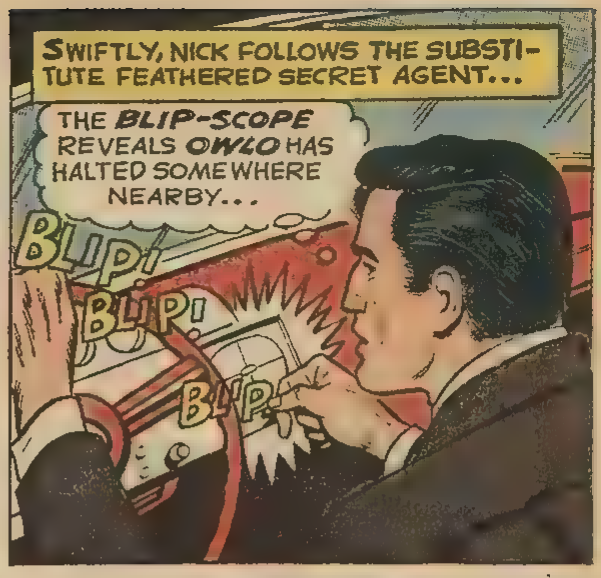

...SO IT COULD KEEP TABS ON HER IF ANYTHING WENT WRONG! OWLO, THE ROBOT OWL, WILL TRAIL LAURA TO WHEREVER SHE'S BEING TAKEN! THEN LATER...

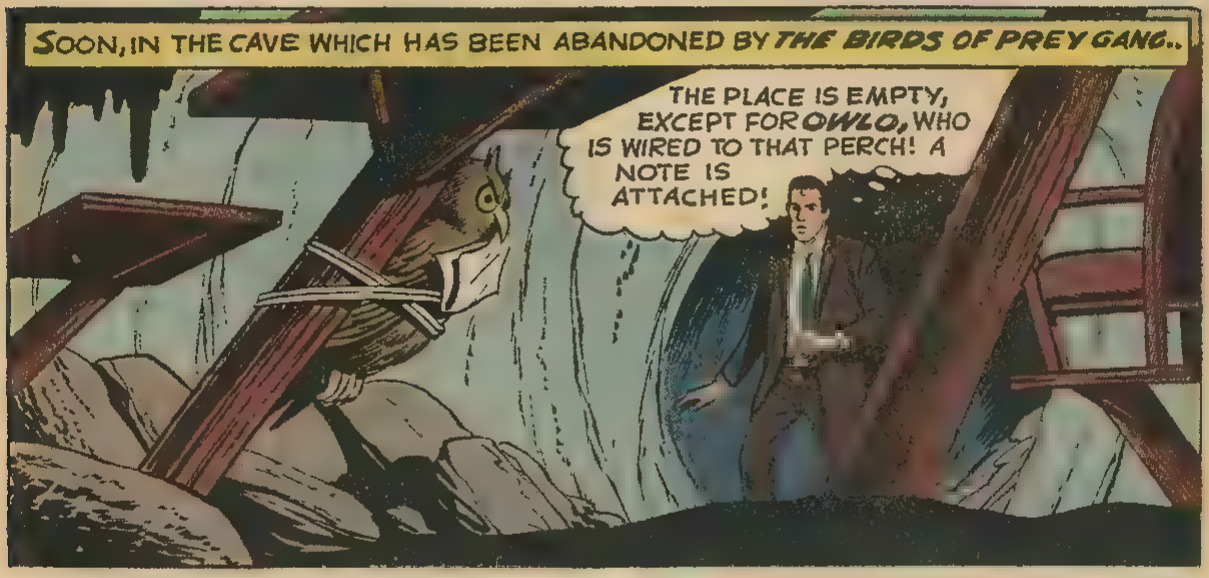

BUT, FROM WITHIN HIDING IN THE TARPAULIN-COVERED TRUCK...
THAT BIRD FOLLOWING THE BUZZARD MUST BE ONE OF THE OWL'S WINGED OPERATIVES! I'LL GET RID OF IT WITH SILENCER-EQUIPPED RIFLE!

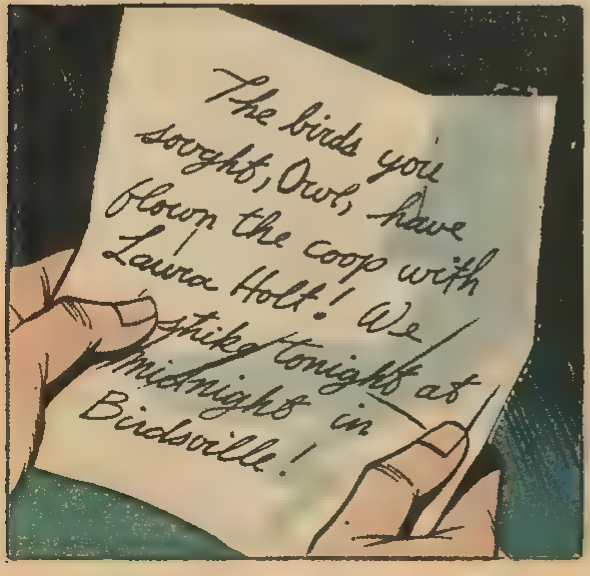
PING!
EXCELL ANT MARKSMANSHIP! I NEVER MISS!


SOMEONE DESTROYED OWLO!...I'LL PRESS THE CONCEALED BUTTON ON MY BELT-BUCKLE AT ONCE...

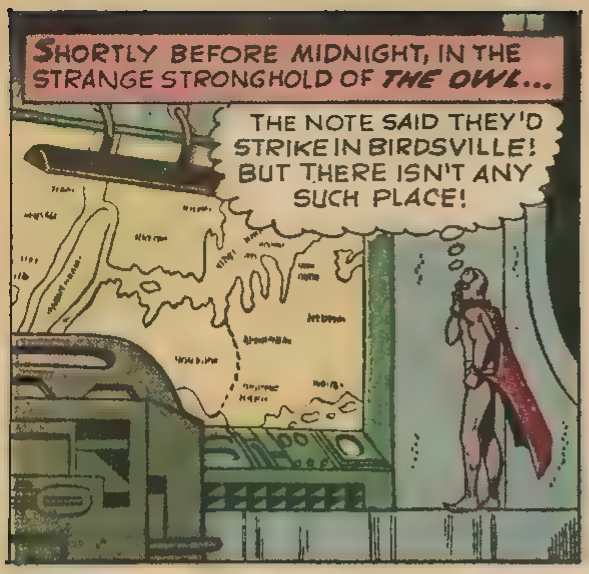

MILES AWAY, IN THE MOUNTAIN STRONGHOLD OF THE PRINCE OF AVENGERS, ANOTHER OWLO, ULTRASONICALLY ACTIVATED BY THE MECHANISM IN NICK'S BELT BUCKLE, TAKES UP THE TRAIL LOST BY ITS SHATTERED COUNTERPART...

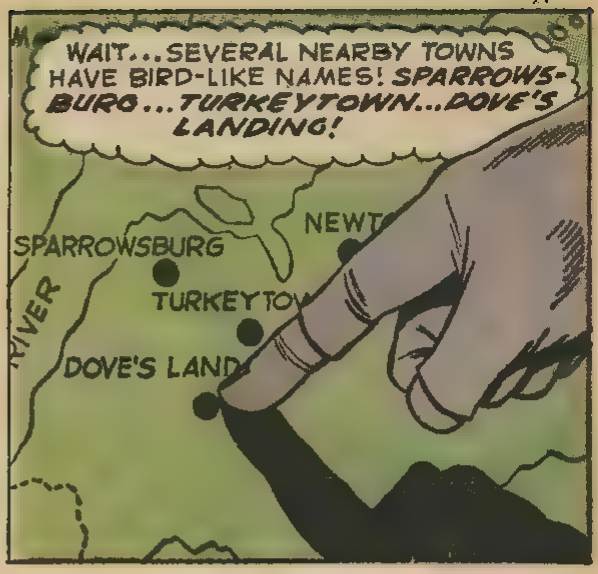

SWIFTLY, NICK FOLLOWS THE SUBSTITUTE FEATHERED SECRET AGENT...
THE BLIP-SCOPE REVEALS OWLO HAS HALTED SOMEWHERE NEARBY...
BLIP!
BLIP!
BLIP!


SOON, IN THE CAVE WHICH HAS BEEN ABANDONED BY THE BIRDS OF PREY GANG..
THE PLACE IS EMPTY, EXCEPT FOR OWLO, WHO IS WIRED TO THAT PERCH! A NOTE IS ATTACHED!

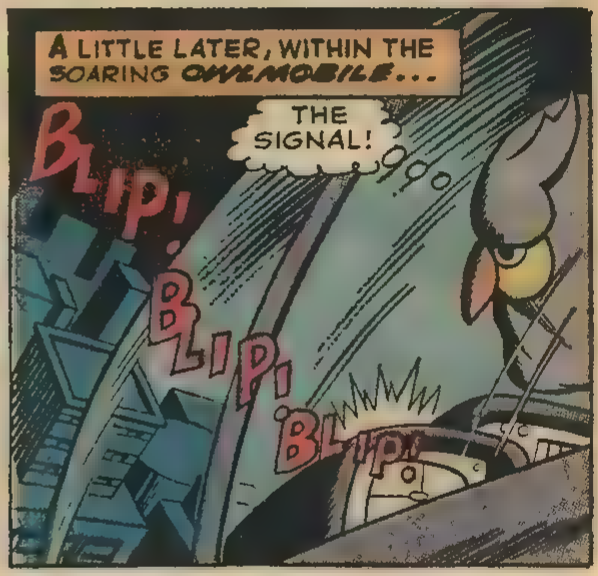

The birds you sought, Owl, have flown the coop with Laura Holt! We strike tonight at midnight in Birdsville!

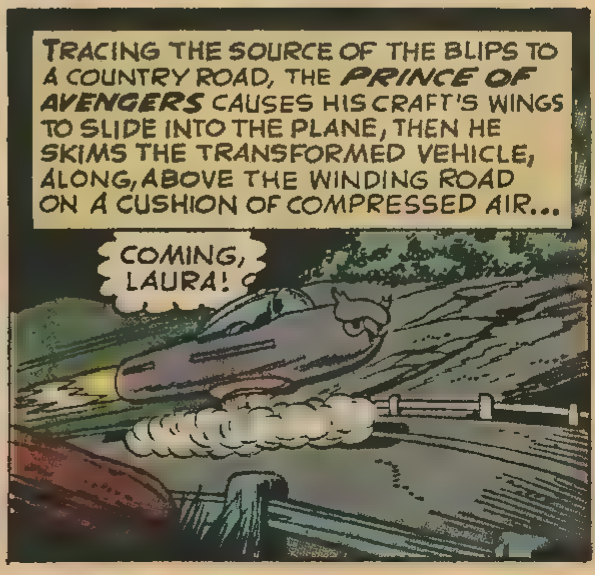
I'VE GOT TO FREE LAURA FROM THE CLUTCHES OF THE BIRDS OF PREY GANG... AS THE OWL!


SHORTLY BEFORE MIDNIGHT, IN THE STRANGE STRONGHOLD OF THE OWL...
THE NOTE SAID THEY'D STRIKE IN BIRDSVILLE! BUT THERE ISN'T ANY SUCH PLACE!


WAIT...SEVERAL NEARBY TOWNS HAVE BIRD-LIKE NAMES! SPARROWSBURG...TURKEYTOWN...DOVE'S LANDING!
SPARROWSBURG
TURKEYTOW
DOVE'S LAND
NEWT
RIVER

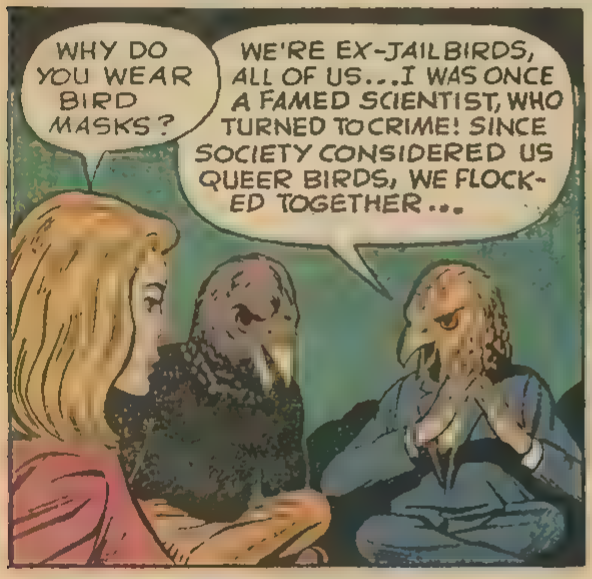
AT ONCE, A HORDE OF OWLO'S ARE DISPATCHED...
I'VE PROGRAMMED THE ROBOT-OWLS TO PATROL THE BIRD-NAME TOWNS! SHOULD ONE OF THEM SIGHT LAURA, IT'LL BLIP-ALERT ME!

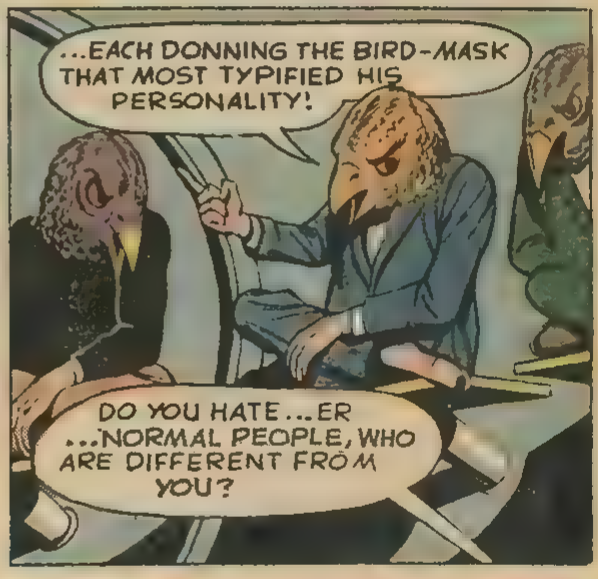

A LITTLE LATER, WITHIN THE SOARING OWLMOBILE...
THE SIGNAL!
BLIP!
BLIP!
BLIP!

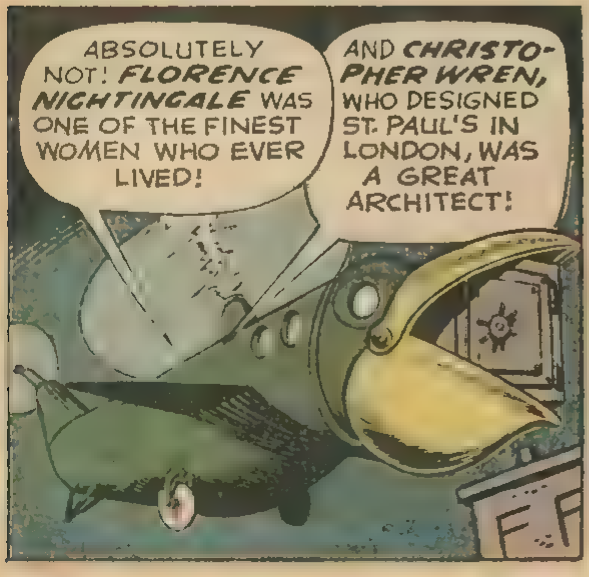

TRACING THE SOURCE OF THE BLIPS TO A COUNTRY ROAD, THE PRINCE OF AVENGERS CAUSES HIS CRAFT'S WINGS TO SLIDE INTO THE PLANE, THEN HE SKIMS THE TRANSFORMED VEHICLE, ALONG, ABOVE THE WINDING ROAD ON A CUSHION OF COMPRESSED AIR...
COMING, LAURA!

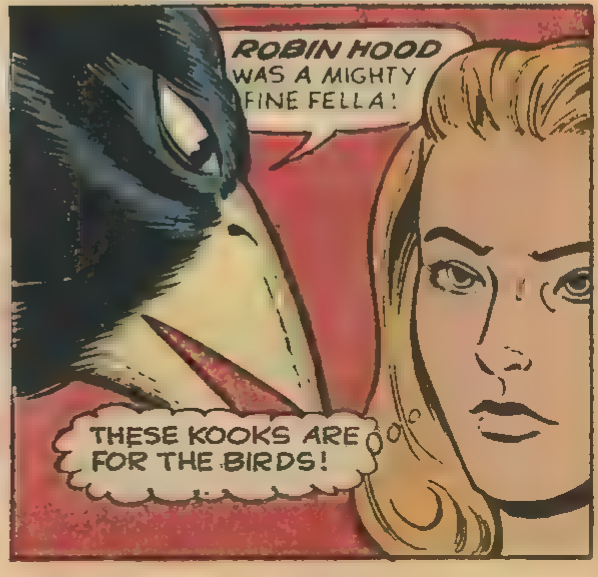
BUT... OH, NO! THAT TRANSISTORIZED SHERLOCK THINKS IT LOCATED LAURA! BUT IT ZEROED IN ON A PHOTO OF HER!
READ... THE MORNING EAGLE AND THE AWARD WINNING SCOOPS OF ACE REPORTER LAURA HOLT
YOU CAN'T ALWAYS WIN! — THE SEARCH GOES ON!
MEANWHILE, AT DOVE'S LANDING, AN AMAZING CRAFT WHICH IS SHAPED LIKE A PELICAN, SWOOPS DOWNWARD ON A NEFARIOUS MISSION...
SOON, WE'LL HAVE PLENTY OF SCRATCH!
THEN, AS IT HOVERS OVER A BANK BUILDING...
PWAAK!
BANK OF DOVE
HA, HAA-AAA! THE BANK VAULT NOW BELONGS TO THE BIRDS OF PREY GANG! THIS LOOT OUGHT TO FEATHER OUR NESTS!

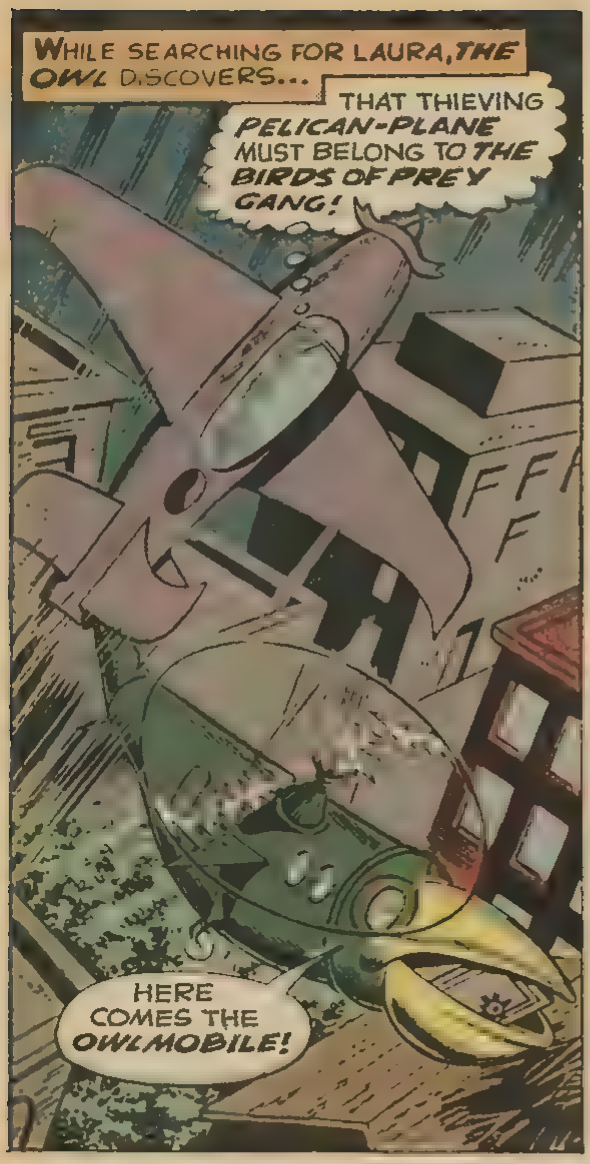
WITHIN THE BIRD-PLANE...
WE BROUGHT YOU ALONG, MISS HOLT, SO THAT AFTER WE RELEASE YOU, YOU CAN WRITE AN EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNT OF OUR BRILLIANT COUP!
I'LL HUMOR THESE CUCKOOS...!

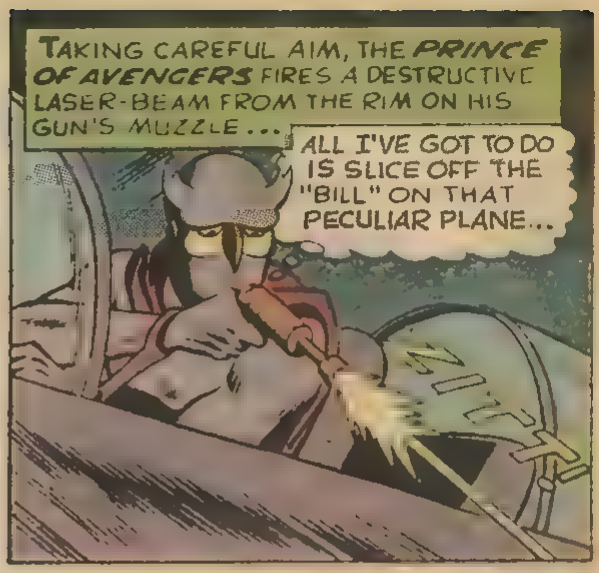

WHY DO YOU WEAR BIRD MASKS?
WE'RE EX-JAILBIRDS, ALL OF US...I WAS ONCE A FAMED SCIENTIST, WHO TURNED TO CRIME! SINCE SOCIETY CONSIDERED US QUEER BIRDS, WE FLOCKED TOGETHER...

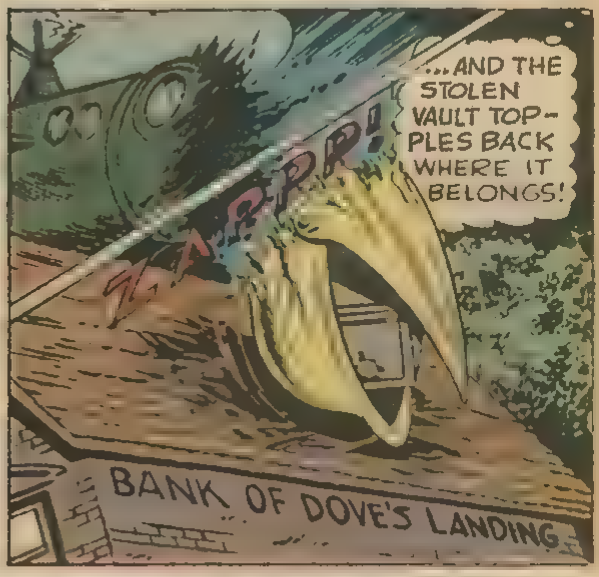

...EACH DONNING THE BIRD-MASK THAT MOST TYPIFIED HIS PERSONALITY!
DO YOU HATE...ER ...NORMAL PEOPLE, WHO ARE DIFFERENT FROM YOU?


ABSOLUTELY NOT! FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE WAS ONE OF THE FINEST WOMEN WHO EVER LIVED!
AND CHRISTOPHER WREN, WHO DESIGNED ST. PAUL'S IN LONDON, WAS A GREAT ARCHITECT!


ROBIN HOOD WAS A MIGHTY FINE FELLA!
THESE KOOKS ARE FOR THE BIRDS!

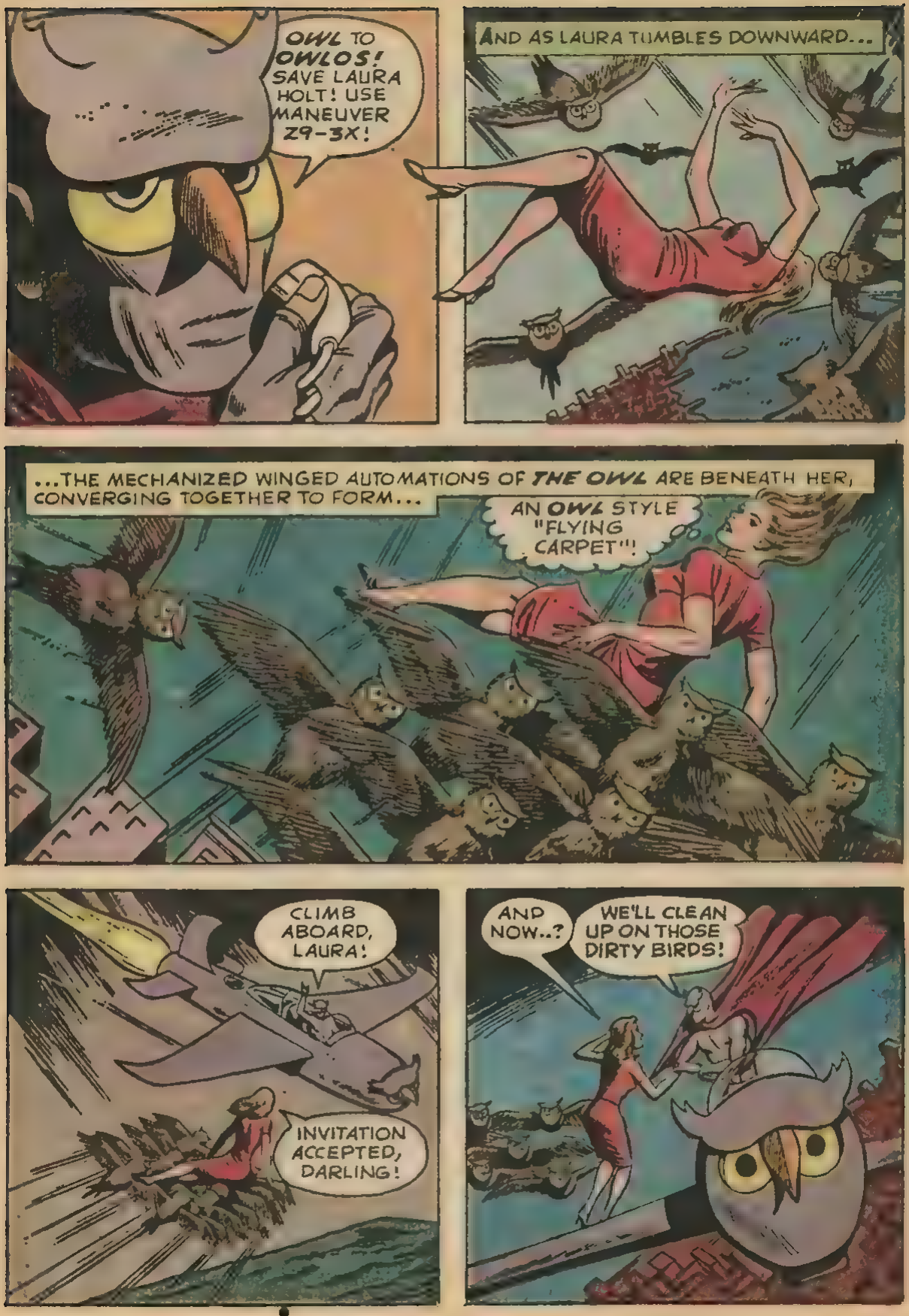

WHILE SEARCHING FOR LAURA, THE OWL DISCOVERS...
THAT THIEVING PELICAN-PLANE MUST BELONG TO THE BIRDS OF PREY GANG!
HERE COMES THE OWLMOBILE!


TAKING CAREFUL AIM, THE PRINCE OF AVENGERS FIRES A DESTRUCTIVE LASER-BEAM FROM THE RIM ON HIS GUN'S MUZZLE...
ALL I'VE GOT TO DO IS SLICE OFF THE "BILL" ON THAT PECULIAR PLANE...
ZIIICK

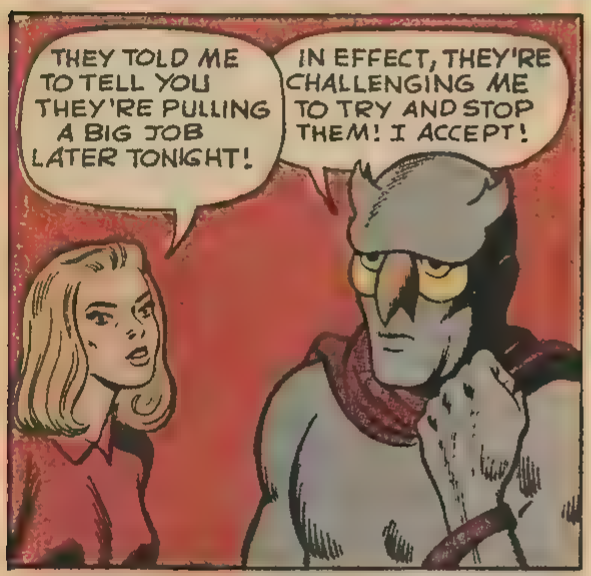

...AND THE STOLEN VAULT TOPPLES BACK WHERE IT BELONGS!
BANK OF DOVE'S LANDING

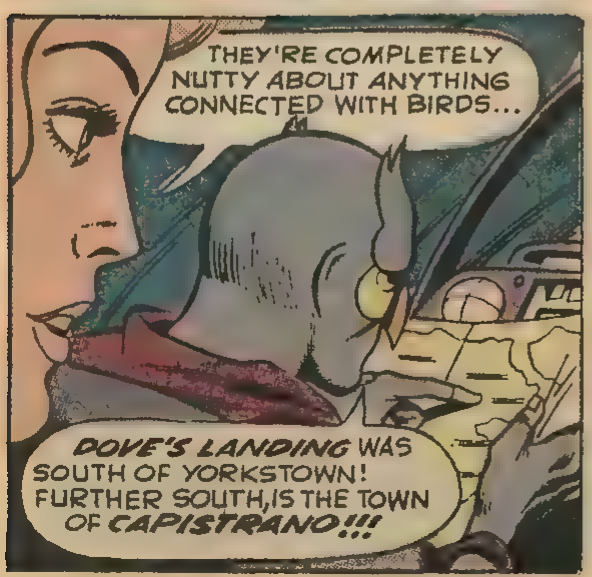
THE ROBBER-CRAFT IS WINGING AWAY! BUT I'LL OVERTAKE IT, SOON! – A BATCH OF MY OWLOS ARE SPEEDING IN...

WE'LL GET AWAY, WHILE THE OWL TRIES TO RESCUE YOU! IF HE SUCCEEDS IN SAVING YOU, TELL HIM WE SHALL MAKE OUR GREATEST HAUL LATER THIS VERY SAME NIGHT!
YOU K-KILLERS.


OWL TO OWLOS! SAVE LAURA HOLT! USE MANEUVER Z9-3X!
AND AS LAURA TUMBLES DOWNWARD...
...THE MECHANIZED WINGED AUTOMATIONS OF THE OWL ARE BENEATH HER, CONVERGING TOGETHER TO FORM...
AN OWL STYLE "FLYING CARPET"!
CLIMB ABOARD, LAURA!
INVITATION ACCEPTED, DARLING!
AND NOW..?
WE'LL CLEAN UP ON THOSE DIRTY BIRDS!

THEIR PLANE IS CRASHING!
I HOPE THEY'VE SURVIVED... SO I CAN MAKE THEM REGRET THEY DID!

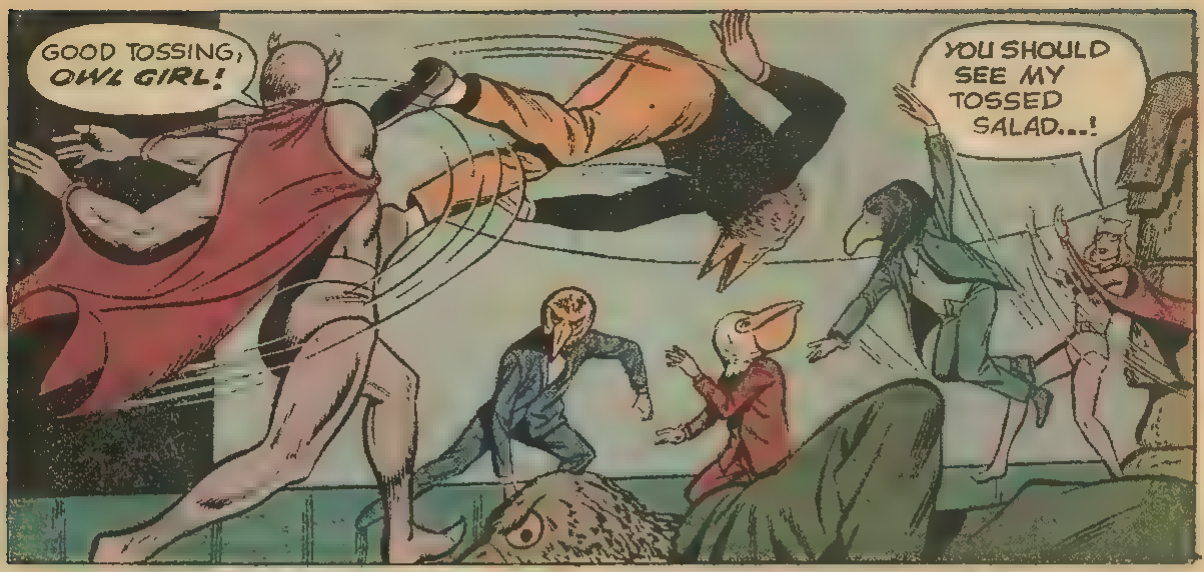

THEY TOLD ME TO TELL YOU THEY'RE PULLING A BIG JOB LATER TONIGHT!
IN EFFECT, THEY'RE CHALLENGING ME TO TRY AND STOP THEM! I ACCEPT!

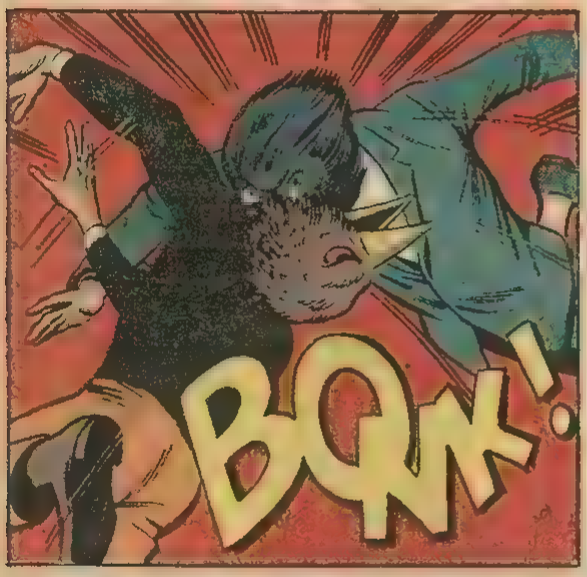

THEY'RE COMPLETELY NUTTY ABOUT ANYTHING CONNECTED WITH BIRDS...
DOVE'S LANDING WAS SOUTH OF YORKSTOWN! FURTHER SOUTH, IS THE TOWN OF CAPISTRANO!!!

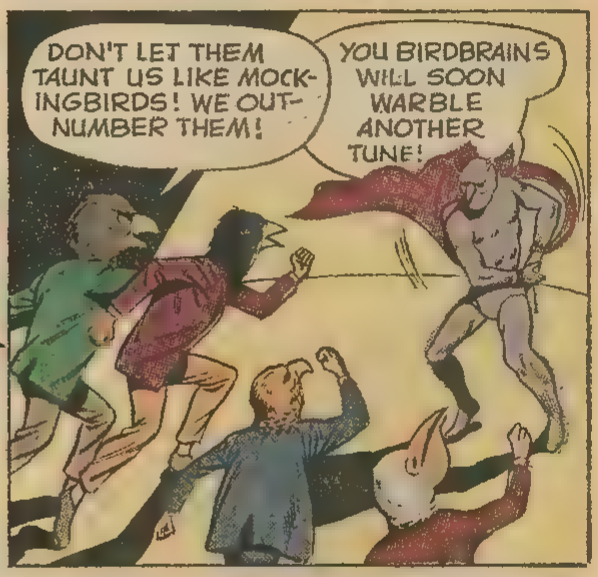
BUT AFTER THE OWL MOBILE ALIGHTS..
?- IT'S EMPTY INSIDE!
THE JET-PACKS THAT WERE ON THE WALL-RACKS ARE GONE, TOO! THEY MUST'VE JETTED AWAY BEFORE ABANDONING THEIR CRAFT!

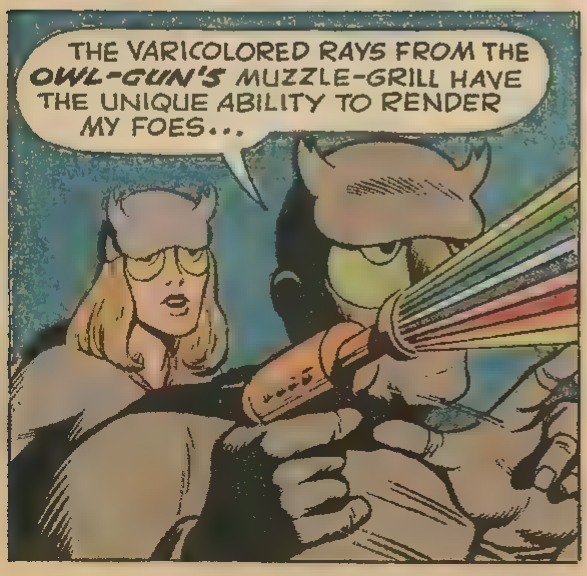
REMEMBER THAT OLD SONG ABOUT SWALLOWS FLYING TO A CITY NAMED CAPISTRANO? AN INVALUABLE ANCIENT AZTEC BIRD OF GOLD HAS JUST BEEN PUT ON DISPLAY IN A CAPISTRANO MUSEUM! THE BIRD GANG IS MIGRATING SOUTH TO THAT TREASURE IN CAPISTRANO!
SO LET'S GO, GO, GO!!!

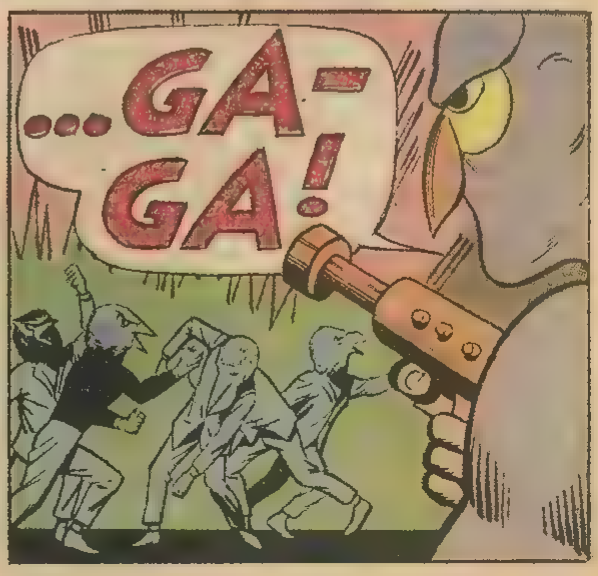
LATER, IN THE CAPISTRANO MUSEUM...
OURS ...ALL OURS!
WE'LL DISASSEMBLE IT, CART IT OFF IN THE STOLEN TRUCKS...
...AND RETIRE IN LUXURY IN OUR COSY LITTLE NESTS SOUTH OF THE BORDER!
WHERE WE CAN SCREECH WITH LAUGHTER AT THE FAILURE OF THE HIGHLY VAUNTED OWL TO STOP OUR FLIGHT TO CRIMINAL GLORY...!
CUT THE GLEEFUL CROWING, RAVEN! -THAT SHADOW...!
THE SHADOW OF THE OWL! BUT WHERE-?
UP HERE! WE ARRIVED FIRST!
THANKS TO THIS SPARE COSTUME I'VE DONNED, THEY DON'T REALIZE THE GIRL THEY TOSSED FROM THE PLANE ...AND OWL GIRL... ARE ONE AND THE SAME GAL!


GOOD TOSSING, OWL GIRL!
YOU SHOULD SEE MY TOSSED SALAD...!


BOOK!


DON'T LET THEM TAUNT US LIKE MOCKINGBIRDS! WE OUTNUMBER THEM!
YOU BIRDBRAINS WILL SOON WARBLE ANOTHER TUNE!


THE VARICOLORED RAYS FROM THE OWL-GUN'S MUZZLE-GRILL HAVE THE UNIQUE ABILITY TO RENDER MY FOES...


...GA-GA!

BEHIND YOU, OWL!
FREEZE, VULTURE!
THE HYPNOTIC GAZE OF THE OWL'S BIG STARING EYES HAVE STIFFENED THE VULTURE INTO IMMOBILITY!
THEY'LL BE UNABLE TO MOVE UNTIL THE MUSEUM GUARDS DISCOVER THEM IN THE MORNING, AND TURN THEM OVER TO THE POLICE! AND NOW...
...PASTED ONTO THEIR HEADMASKS...THE GUMMED LABEL INSIGNIA OF THE OWL!
NO MORE WILL THE BIRDS OF PREY GANG DEFY THE LAW!
AND WHEN OTHER MIGHTY VILLAINS REAR THEIR UGLY HEADS, THE OWL AND OWL GIRL WILL SWOOP TO DEFEAT THEM!
NEXT STARTLING ISSUE, THE OWL ENCOUNTERS HIS STRANGEST CASE!

picture dictionary

G GRUNTS

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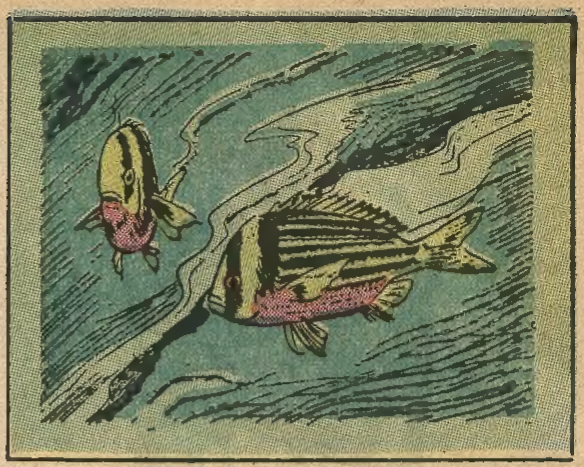
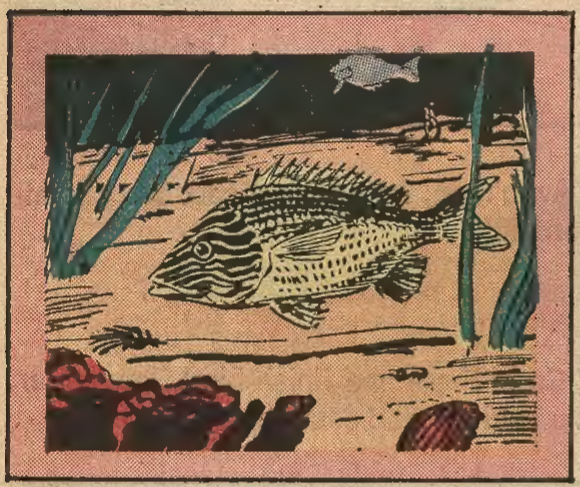
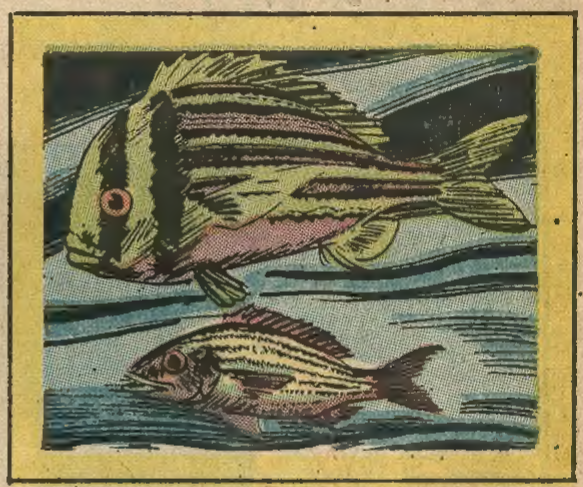


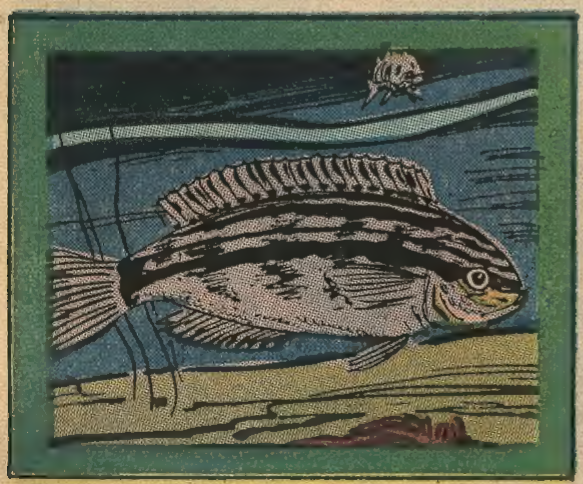
Grunts are small, tropical fish, with unusual markings. Their mouths are brightly colored. Many have horizontal stripes.



Grunts, common to Atlantic waters, favor shallow, sandy bottoms. They rarely exceed 4 lbs. in weight or lengths over 18 inches.



Grunts must have been named by someone with a sense of humor. The smallest fish is the Caesar. Most colorful is the Porkfish.



Curiously, there is also a Pigfish Grunt with diagonal stripes on its back. It is an important food fish in the Atlantic waters.

Other varieties are the White Grunt, found from the West Indies to the Carolinas, and Bluestripe, a handsome tasty specimen.

Chuckle time

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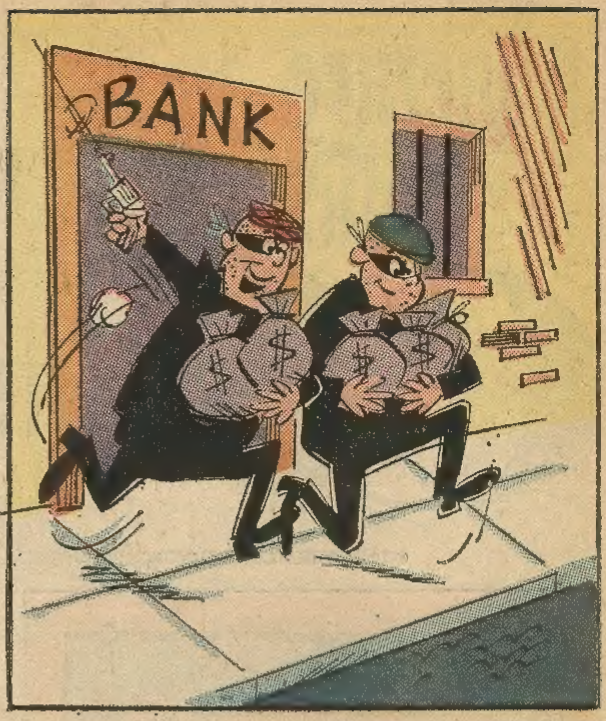
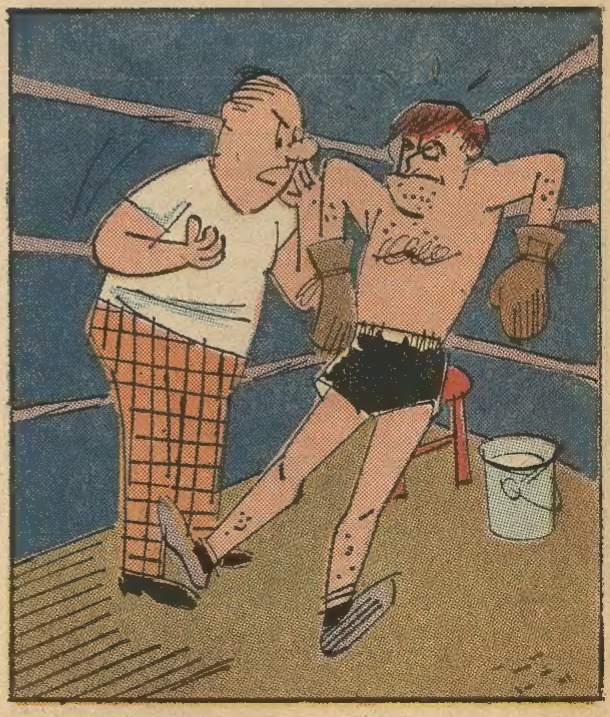


"Aw c'mon, let's take a cab. We can afford it!"

"What a time to be caught without a marshmallow!"

"Go in there and finish him! Remember, he said his dad could lick your dad!"



THE BIRD GANG ROCK
I'M THE PELICAN PLANE AND I'VE GOT THE LOOT!
IT'S A GOOD THING YOU CAME OR YOU'D GET THE BOOT!
YOU TELL 'EM, EAGLE— 'CAUSE YOU'RE BACKED BY THE VULTURE!
HE'S FOR THE BIRDS! HIS CRIMES ALL LACK CULTURE!
EAGLE
VULTURE
YAKKIDY YAK! THEY TALK LIKE THEY'RE TOUGH!
RAVEN
QUIET, YOU BIRDS! ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!
PELICAN
BUZZARD
FALCON
CONDOR

THE OWL PIN-UP